

Sudan denies presence of Iranian ships

KHARTOUM (AP) — A senior Sudanese official denied Sunday that there were Iranian ships in its Port Sudan harbour on the Red Sea. President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt said Wednesday he has information that Iran plans to base warships at Port Sudan. He said that such a threat would justify an immediate military strike. Omar Yousef Beridu, first Foreign Ministry under-secretary, summoned an Egyptian diplomat and expressed Sudan's "astonishment and anxiety" about Mr. Mubarak's comments. Mr. Beridu said Mr. Mubarak's information was "false" and said Sudan "is concerned with the security of Egypt." He suggested that the information might have been planted by "sources bent on sowing discord between Egypt and Sudan." On Sunday in Cairo the state-owned Middle East News Agency quoted an unidentified security official as saying that security measures have been increased along the border with Libya. He said investigations showed that Sudan and Iran were sending extremists to Egypt via Libya and that some of them were involved in the attacks on tourists in Egypt. He said that a security sweep of the Mediterranean port of Alexandria resulted in the arrest of 400 suspected extremists.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الرأي"

Charges against Arab-American delayed

RAMALLAH, occupied West Bank (AP) — The filing of charges against an Arab-American accused of links to Hamas was held up by a technicality Sunday seven weeks after his arrest. Ahlam Haddad, the lawyer for Mohammad Salah, 39, said Israel was trying to build a case against the Chicago area man to justify its expulsion of 400 Palestinians, which caused international criticism of the Jewish state. Mr. Salah told reporters that his Israeli interrogator had badgered him by saying Mr. Salah was "the enemy" and had no chance of winning his case. A military official, responding to the claims by Mr. Salah and his attorney, said the case was being brought on its "own merits" and will have to stand up to all requirements of military law. The Palestinian-born suspect was brought before a military court to be charged Sunday, but the reading of charges was halted by the judge, Shlomo Isaacson, after Ms. Haddad complained she had not received a copy in advance. Mr. Salah was to be formally charged April 19. Colonel Isaacson ordered him held until proceedings against him were completed. Before being interrupted, prosecutor Dan Eironi said Mr. Salah was being charged with "being active in the Hamas and directly linked to the high-ranking and limited leadership of this organisation."

Volume 17 Number 5258

AMMAN MONDAY, MARCH 15, 1993, RAMADAN 22, 1413

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

58 held after protests in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Police arrested 58 people in Egypt after student protesters tried to burn down the guesthouse of a Christian church in the town of Qalyoub, security sources said Sunday. Police said Qalyoub, a market town just north of Cairo with no history of Muslim-Christian clashes, was calm Sunday. But they added that Saturday's unrest, which followed the punishment of a teacher and four students alleged to have played anti-Christian cassette tapes, had shaken people living in the town (see page 2).

Egypt holds 5 for 'proselytising'

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian authorities have arrested five men, including three Americans, on suspicion of proselytising to convert Muslims to Christianity. Randy Hoffman, a senior employee of the company they work for, said the men were arrested in their homes on Feb. 21 and in the following day and still have not been charged. He identified the Americans as Robert M. Cunningham, from Massachusetts, Brian K. Eckhardt, from Iowa and Richard P. Dugan from Indiana. Hoffman said the two others are Thomas A. Martin from New Zealand and Abdul Hamid Adel Nefia, an Egyptian.

Police seize uranium from Berlin flat

BERLIN (R) — German police have seized 5 kilograms of non-weapons grade uranium from a flat in Berlin and arrested a 43-year-old Polish man, a justice spokeswoman said Sunday. Uta Foelster said police had discovered the uranium in a cellar. Thursday, but that there was no danger for the public. Smuggling of nuclear materials from former Soviet bloc countries has spread rapidly after the collapse of communism.

Gulf Air bans smoking on short flights

BAHRAIN (AP) — Gulf Air said Sunday it was banning smoking on regional routes and flights less than two hours long. Abdullah Abdul Karim, Gulf Air's public relations manager, told the Gulf News Agency that the ban will take effect after the end of Ramadan. The ban will not apply to international flights. The airline is owned by Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, and the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

Maldives president preaches in Morocco

RABAT (R) — Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, on an official visit to Morocco, delivered a Ramadan sermon on the theme of "Islam, a religion of tolerance." The official Moroccan news agency MAP reported that King Hassan and palace and government dignitaries attended the sermon Saturday at the Soukaina Mosque in Rabat. Mr. Gayoom was the first head of state to speak at traditional religious rites held in the evening during Ramadan, when foreign preachers are invited by the king to deliver homilies on religious themes.

Kuwait opposition leader hails probe

KUWAIT (R) — A senior Kuwaiti opposition politician, in remarks published Sunday, hailed as unprecedented official investigations into suspected misuse of public funds. "This is something new in Kuwait. There were instances of corruption in the past but they were never referred to the judiciary," Abdullah Al Nibari was quoted as saying in an interview with the English-language Arab Times. "It is no longer accepted to keep things secret as the government was doing before." The opposition veteran added, "We have promises from emir (Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah) and Crown Prince (Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah) that investigation will be allowed to proceed. This is a new attitude in Kuwait and we hope it delivers the goods." Emotions are running high in the emirate over revelations of suspected corruption.

Israeli soldiers kill 3-year-old in Hebron

Gaza settlers dismiss Palestinian workers

HEBRON, Occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot dead a three-year-old Palestinian girl who was riding in the family car in the occupied West Bank, the army said Sunday.

Huda Siya was shot Saturday night inside the city of Hebron and died in a local hospital Sunday, her father and the hospital said.

The army said the car had turned around before reaching an army roadblock and "when it did not respond to the soldiers' calls and gestures to stop, the soldiers shot at the car."

The girl's death was the latest in a surge of killing in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict since Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin expelled 415 Palestinians to Lebanon in December in reprisal for attacks on soldiers.

On Friday two Israelis — a soldier and a woman settler in the occupied Gaza Strip — were found dead and soldiers shot dead a 17-year-old Palestinian boy in Hebron.

Since the expulsion on December 17, a count by Reuters shows Israelis have killed 57 Palestinians, and Palestinians have killed 10 Israelis.

In response to the wave of attacks, Jewish settlers in the Gaza Strip fired their Palestinian

farm labourers Sunday and government officials called for recruiting 2,000 more police.

The cabinet, under public pressure to curb the violence, also announced that additional, still secret security steps would be taken.

The attacks also have increased fear among Israelis. The daily Maariv wrote in its editorial Sunday: "Many of us walk in the city streets with a new care. We look out for who is an Arab or who even looks like one. We are even suspicious of those with an 'Eastern' look."

One sign of the fear came last Friday in Jerusalem when police had to rescue two Israeli Arab sisters who bought a knife at a downtown shop. An angry mob suspected them of buying the knife to stab a Jew.

Police Commissioner Yaakov Turner dismissed the decision to increase police forces as a way to immediately end the violence, saying it would take six months to recruit and train the men. The added forces still must be approved by the cabinet.

Mr. Turner came under fire for his weekend statement urging Israelis who have licences for pistols to carry their weapons at all times.

"The commissioner in his deci-

sion gave everyone blanket permission to go out into the streets with their weapons... this is grave and dangerous," said Mesulam Amit, former commander of the border police.

An estimated 300,000 Israelis have gun licences. But Police Minister Moshe Shaleh said Israel "doesn't rely on them to enforce the law."

A cabinet statement called on Israelis to act responsibly despite the attacks. In the occupied Gaza Strip, settler leader Zvi Hendel said he regretted the decision no longer to hire Arabs. Most Arabs just want to earn a living, he said, adding a few extremists were forcing the settlers to punish everyone.

"But it's inconceivable that in one hand they hold a hoe and receive a salary while in the other they hold a knife," Mr. Hendel said on army radio.

Israel Radio estimated the firing of Arab farm workers on settlements would leave about 1,000 men jobless in the impoverished Gaza Strip.

But the settlers, who received the land from the government virtually free and whose water is subsidised, complain they cannot afford the wages to attract Israeli

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Sarid: Gaza Strip will be PLO-led independent state

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — An Israeli minister said Sunday the occupied Gaza Strip would be turned over to the Palestinians in the framework of an agreement and inevitably be an independent state led by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"Israel is not interested in ruling Gaza, and Gaza will be given over as soon as possible, not in a unilateral way, but in the framework of an agreement," Environment Minister Yossi Sarid told Israel's army radio after the cabinet's weekly meeting devoted to a surge in Palestinian-Israeli violence.

"In order to turn over Gaza within an agreement there has to be someone to take it. No element will take Gaza other than the Palestinian element," said Mr. Sarid, of the left-wing Meretz party.

Mr. Sarid said the Palestinians "will not take Gaza without it first being known as a Palestinian state and without the PLO leadership being able to sit in Gaza." Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, now in the United States, opposes the government even talking with the PLO, though

Israel this year lifted a ban against its citizens having contacts with the PLO.

Middle East peace talks stalled after Israel expelled 415 Palestinians to Lebanon on Dec. 17 in reprisal for attacks on soldiers. Since the expulsions, Israelis have killed 57 Palestinians and Palestinians have killed 10 Israelis. Much of the violence has been in Gaza.

The United States and Russia, sponsors of the peace talks, last week issued invitations for them to resume in April.

The Palestinian delegation, directed by the PLO, refused the invitation, saying Israel had to pledge not to expel Arabs to the future.

Syria said Sunday U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher had promised to resolve the fate of the Palestinian expellees before the resumption of peace talks.

The official daily Al Baath said Mr. Christopher had made the pledge during his tour of the Middle East last month.

It urged the U.S. administra-

U.N. experts continue hunt in Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — The latest team of U.N. weapons experts in Iraq continued their inspections Sunday and said their mission was going well.

"We are looking at areas that we have been asked to evaluate by the special commission and we will continue to do that," their leader, Dave Franz, told reporters.

Mr. Franz and his 20-strong team of mainly chemical and biological arms specialists arrived in Baghdad Thursday as part of United Nations efforts to strip Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction under the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire.

"We have been conducting inspections over the last two days under the auspices of (U.N. Resolution) 687... our inspections are going on well," Mr. Franz, an American, said.

Mr. Franz said he had spent some times at Muthana, 130 kilometres northwest of Baghdad where another U.N. team is destroying an estimated 45,000 chemical munitions.

He said his team had also visited a couple of sites as part of its checks on Iraq's biological weapons programme and would visit more in the coming days.

He said the Iraqis had cooperated with his mission but the U.N. was still not satisfied with their accounts of their facilities and supplies.

Relief needs assessed

Another U.N. team is in Iraq assessing its aid needs as part of effort to renegotiate a relief agreement which expires at the end of the month, a senior U.N. official said Sunday.

"There is a (U.N.) mission in Iraq... to assess the requirements for humanitarian assistance both for relief and rehabilitation," Mohammad Zejjari, U.N. coordinator in Baghdad, told Reuters.

But he said the legal framework governing U.N. relief operations in Iraq following the expiry of the current agreement was still under discussion.

Mr. Zejjari said the world body was considering a one-year programme to replace a U.N.-Iraq pact that runs out at the end of March.

"We have a programme of one year for the period from April 1993 to March 1994," he said.

Previous U.N. aid pacts with Baghdad have been for six months only.

Saddam denies poisoning marches; Egypt says dies 'fraternal' page 2

King, PLO envoys discuss peace process; Abu Jaber optimistic

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein and two senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials Sunday discussed the Middle East peace process and Jordanian-Palestinian coordination, the Jordan News Agency, Petra said.



His Majesty King Hussein Sunday meets Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Political Department chief Fawaz Kaddoumi (Petra photo)

The King's talks with Fawaz Kaddoumi, head of the Political Department of the PLO, and Mahmoud Abbas, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, also covered "the obstacles facing the peace process, particularly the problem of Palestinians expelled by Israel from the occupied territories in December and Israel's arbitrary practices in the occupied territories," Petra said.

The meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki, the King's Military Secretary His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad and Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Ja-

ber as well as the Palestinian ambassador to Jordan, Al Tayyeb Abdul Rahim.

Dr. Abu Jaber held an earlier round of talks with Mr. Kad-

doumi and was quoted as saying after the meeting that the crisis over the expellees which has de-

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Press law clears Parliament

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — "To minimise the losses" and ensure that the draft press and publication law is completed before Parliament's current ordinary session ends on March 31, deputies Sunday endorsed the draft legislation as amended by the Upper House of Parliament (Senate).

The Senate had amended the draft legislation to restrict recognition of journalists to "those who fulfil the requirements of the current Jordan Press Association (JPA) law and took journalism as a profession." It also gave journalists the right to keep secret their sources of information unless ordered to divulge them by a court of law during trial of cases that relate to national security, attainment of justice and prevention of crime.

The Senate also amended article 8 of the draft legislation to lift the requirement on government to facilitate the work of journalists reviewing its programmes.

The 40-member Senate also amended article 46 of the draft law to allow journalists to accept financial assistance from local and foreign groups subject to approval by the minister of information. As originally approved by the House, the article banned journalists from receiving such financial assistance.

Among other amendments, the Senate reintroduced to the draft legislation article 56 which sets a maximum JD 1,000 fine for violations of the draft law for which there are no specified punishments.

"We have many problems with the law, but we passed it because we want it to be completed before the end of the current session of

Parliament," the chairman of the House's Judiciary Committee, Salim Al Zoubi told the Jordan Times Sunday.

"At least it is better than the one it will replace," he said. Many deputies had told the Jordan Times that they had intended to introduce certain amendments to the controversial draft legislation but the House later reached a consensus to endorse the Senate's version to make sure that the draft law will be enacted into law.

Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Hammam Sa'id earlier told the Jordan Times his 22-member bloc at the House was planning a motion to broaden recognition of journalists to include non-JPA members. Mohammad Abu Fares said after Sunday's vote that the bloc had opted to endorse the law

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Hekmatyar hopes to form new Afghan cabinet soon

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Afghanistan's new prime minister, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, said Sunday he hoped to form a new government soon and reaffirmed his support for a ceasefire accord signed last week to end bloodshed among Afghan factions.

"I sincerely abide by this accord and hope to be able to form the cabinet soon," the Iranian news agency IRNA quoted him as saying shortly before ending a one-day visit to Iran.

Mr. Hekmatyar, Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani and Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif held talks with Iranian president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjari Saturday night on the peace accord signed in Islama-

bad. IRNA said the three leaders left Iran Sunday.

It quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as urging Islamic countries to join Iran in sending peacekeeping forces to monitor the ceasefire.

"Rafsanjani said Iran was ready to send peacekeeping forces to Afghanistan to preserve peace there. He also hoped that other Islamic countries would contribute peacekeeping forces," it said earlier Sunday in a report on separate talks with Mr. Sharif.

IRNA said Mr. Rafsanjani "voiced satisfaction" during talks with all three leaders about the accord to end fighting which has

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Morillon remains in Bosnia town, seeks Serb concession

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian Serb forces shelled Srebrenica Sunday and the U.N. commander there reported people were dying as he tried to get a relief convoy into the besieged Muslim enclave.

General Philippe Morillon, who entered the town on Thursday and has decided to help the people there until the relief convoy arrives, contacted the Bosnian government Sunday with details of the city.

"There is shelling. He's trying to get the Serbs to stop," Bosnia's deputy president, Ejup Ganic, told the Associated Press after speaking with Gen. Morillon.

"He said the situation is desperate, people are dying," Mr. Ganic said. "He said he's busy trying to help people."

"It's a good thing he's there. We have a witness," Mr. Ganic said.

Mr. Ganic said Gen. Morillon told him he wanted to bring U.N. observers into the Srebrenica area to check reports that Serb reinforcements were being sent in.

Mr. Ganic said he got the impression that Gen. Morillon would stay in Srebrenica until the Serbs met at least some of his demands — allow in the nine-truck food convoy, opening an air

(Continued on page 5)

U.N. troops mobilise for Somali pay dispute

MOGADISHU (R) — A tense round of pay negotiations between the United Nations and some 900 redundant Somali security guards ended in deadlock Sunday, with a show of strength by foreign troops helping to prevent any violence.

U.S. and U.N. troops had deployed in force as a delegation of five guards met officials of the World Food Programme (WFP), which hired the men to protect relief supplies at Mogadishu port before U.S. troops arrived in December.

WFP says it paid the men up to Dec. 12, four days after they stopped working, but the guards are demanding salaries for all of December, January and February.

"Basically they are looking for protection money," one WFP official told Reuters.

About 800 people demonstrated in their support outside the WFP office and a nearby compound rented by the U.S. charity Care but most had dispersed by the time negotiations began.

Many Somalis sympathise with the guards, saying that the number of jobs available to Somalis has diminished since the foreign

troops came in to protect food for the hungry.

Some of the guards have threatened to attack U.N. agencies and relief organisations if their demands are not met.

"If they refuse to give us our money, they are insulting the Somali people and we will tell the people to fight them," said Abdinasser Sheikh Mohammad, who described himself as the commander of a "technical battalion" of 110 men.

A "technical" is the Somali term for a truck or pick-up fitted with a heavy weapon. Clan militias use such vehicles in the fighting which has largely ended since the Americans intervened.

U.S. and U.N. forces took extra security precautions from dawn Sunday. U.S. helicopters circled the city for two hours and U.S. Marines set up new checkpoints to search for arms.

Two armoured personnel carriers manned by Pakistani U.N. troops were deployed at the WFP compound and sharpshooters:

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Donors pledge \$142 million: regional autonomy key to peace deal, page 2

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U.N. fails to reach aid donation goal for Somalia

\$142m pledged; donors uneasy over anarchy

ADDIS ABABA (AP) — The United States and other nations pledged \$142 million Saturday in aid to rebuild Somalia. U.N. officials said, but the donations fell short of U.N. requests largely because of security concerns.

The pledges came at the end of a three-day aid conference in the Ethiopian capital in which donor nations and relief groups threatened to cut funding or pull out of Somalia unless Somalia move to end persistent violence and make progress in peace talks this week.

The 15 factions fighting for power in the ravaged country attended the talks and said they would work for peace at negotiations that begin next week.

The United Nations had asked for \$166.5 million for food aid and development projects this year, but some countries involved in Somalia — including Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark and Italy — refused to give more until conditions improve.

The United Nations said \$142 million was pledged, including \$43 million from the European Community (EC), \$31 million from the United States, \$20.7 million from Germany and \$20 million from Japan.

Of the package, \$29 million will pay for food while the rest will be spent on development, the United Nations said.

Three foreign aid workers have been killed this year in Somalia. Bandits have robbed or expropriated money from relief groups, and rioting and clan fighting have interrupted food deliveries despite the presence of the U.S.-led military coalition that has been in

Somalia since December. "Rehabilitation activities will be expanded only as security permits and will be directed to those areas of the country where there is capacity and willingness of local groups to be involved," said Richard Cobb of the U.S. delegation.

Italian delegate Raniero Tallarigo told Somali representatives at the conference: "Help us to help you."

"There can be no rehabilitation process without a full commitment to national reconciliation," Mr. Tallarigo said.

Denmark said it spent \$7.5 million on Somalia last year but could not say how much it would pledge for 1993 until there is "improvement in the security situation."

"The primary responsibility lies with the people of Somalia," said Danish envoy Sten Liholt.

The EC made the largest pledge. However, Keran J. O'Connell, EC special envoy to Somalia, said the money not be forthcoming until an EC commission visits Somalia to determine if security is sufficient in the country to permit the funding.

The envoy did not specify what level of security conditions the commission would find satisfactory.

Conference Chairman Jan Eliasson, who is also the U.N. under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs, said he was not disappointed by the aid pledges.

"We are definitely being given enough to begin this program," he said in an interview. "But the main problem for the donors is the security in the area

and the reconciliation process." The money will be used to try to restore the Somali economy and ease the country's dependence of food aid.

A hopeful sign for the outcome of the peace talks, which was to begin Monday in Addis Ababa, came late Saturday when the 15 factions issued a statement calling for peace.

"We realise that peace and stability is a prerequisite to achieve a meaningful recovery and rehabilitation programme," said the joint statement, read by Hussein Eladeh Fahiyeh, vice-chairman of the Somali Democratic Alliance.

But Abdul Khadi Omer Yusuf, a community leader from Mogadishu, and other Somali leaders called for more U.N. help in creating a strong police force.

Somali has been without a government since dictator Mohamed Siad Barre was driven from power in January 1991.

Mr. Cobb said Washington anticipated spending a total of about \$190 million in food and non-food assistance to Somalia during the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, including the aid pledged during the conference.

Much of the \$190 million has already been spent and does not include the money used for the deployment of U.S. troops.

The United Nations said it had also received pledges from Sweden — \$7 million, Holland — \$5.6 million, Norway — \$5 million, Turkey — \$4 million, Ireland — \$3 million, France — \$2.5 million, Switzerland — \$1.1 million, South Korea — \$100,000, and Cameroon \$3,600.

Saddam denies poisoning marshes

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has dismissed Western reports that his government was poisoning southern marshes inhabited by rebellious Shiites as repulsive and fabricated.

"Imagine the low extent your enemies have indulged in. Imagine how evil they are when they claim that we are poisoning water used by our people," Baghdad newspapers quoted President Saddam Sunday as telling a group of Shiite leaders in Baghdad.

"I cannot imagine a government poisoning water for its own people... where did they get this news from?" President Saddam asked.

London's Observer weekly reported last month that Iraq had launched a campaign of repression against southern Shiite Muslims in which Iraqi forces poisoned water supplies.

The Observer's report by its correspondent Shyam Bhatia, who said he spent 10 days with Shiites in Iraq's southern marshlands, said the new Iraqi onslaught included plans to poison rivers in the marshlands. Medical experts had detected chemical traces in the waters, it said.

The West imposed a "no-fly" zone over much of the Shiite south to protect dissidents biding in the marshland following the collapse of a short rebellion in the wake of



Iraqi Shiite families visit the holy shrines in Najaf Sunday, on the anniversary of Imam Ali (AFP photo)

the Gulf war.

Baghdad's opponents say Iraqi engineers and army are diverting tributaries of the Tigris River into a canal flowing to the southern city of Basra and have dammed the Euphrates River to channel its waters into the Gulf, Iraq denies this.

As President Saddam spoke, 339 tribal chiefs from Basra brandished their guns, hoisted banners and shouted the hush (wacry).

The tribal delegation was the third received by Saddam in less than one month from the area policed by western aircraft.

Egyptian police tear-gas students

QALYUB, Egypt (Agencies) — Egyptian riot police fired tear gas to disperse a protest by stone-throwing school students, some of whom tried to burn down the guest house of a Christian church, a police officer said.

A doctor at the local hospital in Qalyub, a market town just north of Cairo, said three women had been slightly hurt in the demonstrations Saturday afternoon.

The police officer, who asked not to be named, said six police had minor injuries from being hit by stones.

The incident shook residents of Qalyub, which has no history of Christian-Muslim clashes. But it showed how tensions have been rising in Egypt as political violence involving Muslim militants has surged over the past year, killing about 100 people.

Police and residents said the students were protesting at a decision by the Education Ministry to transfer a teacher and suspend four teenage girls accused of play-

ing an anti-Christian cassette tape in class.

As part of a government campaign against militants, the Education Ministry is punishing teachers who spread what it considers to be extremist religious views. Local Muslims complained that in this case, the ministry had acted without a proper investigation.

According to other reports Saturday protests were staged by families of pupils who were fired from school for circulating tapes of blind radical preacher Omar Abdul Rahman.

A police official, who refused to be identified by name, told the AP the protest came when authorities refused to allow the four girls back to their secondary school.

The pupils and their teacher were fired earlier this month after authorities discovered that they were circulating the cleric's tapes in the United States for almost three years, has been linked to

the Feb. 26 World Trade Centre bombing. Two of the men arrested for suspected involvement in the blast prayed at a storefront mosque in New Jersey where the cleric preaches.

The cleric was charged and acquitted of sanctioning the 1981 assassination of President Anwar Sadat. He has been sending tapes from the United States calling for holy war against President Hosni Mubarak's secular regime and denouncing tourism as sinful.

Charged pieces of wood and burnt Christian books littered the street outside the church guest-house, a four-story building opposite a mosque. Scores of riot police sealed off streets in the centre of the town late into the night.

Police said 13 people, mostly school students, had been arrested.

Militants of Al Gama'a Al Islamiya (Islamic Group) are fighting to overthrow the government.

Iran finances New Jersey Muslim cleric — Newsweek

NEW YORK (R) — Iran secretly bankrolled the radical Muslim cleric whose followers are suspected of involvement in New York's World Trade Centre bombings, Newsweek Magazine reports.

According to the magazine, the money trail between Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman and Tehran is "the biggest investigative lead yet" in the probe into the Feb. 26 bombing.

The explosion killed five people, injured more than 1,000 and crippled the 110-storey twin towers on the fringe of Manhattan's financial district. One person is still missing.

Newsweek said U.S. intelligence and State Department sources would not specify the amount of "the subsidy" or the frequency of the payments to Sheikh Abdul Rahman, the spiritual leader of an Egyptian fundamentalist group seeking the overthrow of the government of Hosni Mubarak.

But it said intelligence officials have evidence of money being funnelled from Iran to Sheikh Abdul Rahman, who preaches at a Jersey City, New Jersey, mosque, through one of his wives in Egypt.

The magazine said no connection had yet been made between Tehran and German wire transfers to U.S. bank accounts held by two suspects arrested in the trade centre bombing — Mohamad Salameh and Nidal Ayyad.

But it said the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) was looking for evidence that funds from Germany had the same Iranian origins.

Mr. Ayyad was born in Kuwait, but his parents are Palestinian. Mr. Salameh is a Palestinian, raised in Jordan.

A third person, Egyptian-born Ibrahim Al Gabrowny, is also being held in the case. He was arrested on charges of assaulting two federal agents who were searching his apartment.

Prosecutors said at Mr. Gabrowny's court hearing that he was considered a suspect in the bombing, but they have not disclosed what link he might have had.

Mr. Salameh and Mr. Gabrowny have ties to Al Sayid Nosair, who is serving a prison term for assault and weapons possession in connection with the killing of radical Rabbi Meir Kahane in November 1990.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman has condemned the trade centre bombing and says he was not involved in any way. But his fiery sermons repeatedly call for violence on behalf of Islam and authorities have said that his group is a focus of the blast investigation.

Newsweek said both the Sheikh and his lawyer had denied that he received any foreign subsidy.

The magazine noted that Thomas McNamara, the U.S. State Department's top counter-terrorism official, told a congressional committee last week that Iran "continues to be the most serious and deadly sponsor of international terrorism."

It added that U.S. experts say Iran has been "a major underwriter of Islamic terror in Egypt" where Sheikh Abdul Rahman was acquired of charges that he ordered the 1981 assassination of President Anwar Sadat.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Police investigate Cyprus link to arms shipment

NICOSIA (AP) — Cyprus police are investigating whether a Cyprus-based offshore company was involved in a shipment of Serbian arms to Somalia, a newspaper reported Sunday. The company, which was not identified, was named in a bill of lading on a Greek-flagged ship impounded last month in the Seychelles after it was found to be carrying Serb guns and ammunition bound for Somalia, the Cyprus Mail said. "The police are carrying out an investigation based on information received that the ship's document names an offshore company in Cyprus. We are investigating whether this company exists or not," police spokesman Savvas Antoniadis told the paper. The Central Bank of Cyprus announced last week that it was tightening controls to ensure strict enforcement of U.N. sanctions against Yugoslavia. There have been foreign reports that said offshore Yugoslav banks and businesses based in Cyprus were violating the sanctions.

Remains of 50 Algerians found in mass grave

ALGIERS (R) — The remains of 50 Algerian fighters, killed during the 1954-1962 independence war against France, have been found in east Algeria, the official news agency APS reported Sunday. Surviving guerrillas said the group was heading for Tunisia for weapons when French soldiers killed them in a battle and buried them in a mass grave in Beni Mezeline, Guelma province, about 80 kilometres from the frontier. APS said the remains would be reburied on March 19.

Sudan tightens grip on Egyptian university

NICOSIA (R) — Sudanese authorities have begun to install a new administration in the Khartoum branch of Cairo University taken over by Sudan last week, Sudanese radio said Sunday. It quoted Al Nilein (Two Niles) University vice-chancellor Professor Ibrahim Hajjar, as saying new staff members would be appointed in a week's time. Sudan took over the university and sacked its vice-chancellor less than three months after annexing a number of Egyptian schools. State television said last Tuesday Education Minister Ibrahim Ahmad Omar had revoked a licence granted to Egypt in 1955 for the establishment of Cairo University, Khartoum branch, and renamed the institution Nilein University. Mr. Omar said the government was seeking to expand higher education in Sudan and bring home Sudanese students learning abroad.

Curfew suspended in Khartoum for Ramadan

KHARTOUM (R) — Military authorities announced a suspension of the curfew in Khartoum for the remainder of the Holy Month of Ramadan, ending in about 10 days. The curfew has been in force throughout Sudan since military ruler Omar Hassan Al Bashir seized power on June 30, 1989. The official Sudan news agency said the midnight to 4 a.m. curfew would be enforced again after the first day of the Eid Feast following the holy fast.

Qatari emir pardons 79 prisoners

DOHA (AP) — Qatar's emir, Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani, pardoned 79 prisoners on the occasion of the Holy Month of Ramadan and the approach of the feast of Eid Al Fitr, the official Qatari News Agency reported Sunday. The agency did not give any further details.

Egyptian consul: Iraq ties 'fraternal'

NICOSIA (AP) — Egypt's newly-appointed consul to Iraq describes his mission as a good step towards restoration of solidarity between Cairo and Baghdad, an Iraqi newspaper reported Sunday.

The diplomat, Rida Abdul Karim, told the daily Al Thawra that "what causes agony to the Iraqi people hurts the Egyptian people as well, because we are all brothers," the official Iraqi news Agency (INA) said.

Mr. Abdul Karim, who arrived in Baghdad Friday, is the first Egyptian diplomat assigned to Iraq since Cairo cut diplomatic relations following the August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Egypt was a leading member of the U.S.-led coalition that forced Iraqi troops from the emirate

seven months later. Its interests have been handled through two administrative attaches operating through the Indian embassy.

Turkey, another member of the coalition, reopened its diplomatic mission in Baghdad this month.

In a dispatch monitored in Nicosia, the news agency reported that Mr. Abdul Karim told Al Thawra that a key aim of his mission was "overcoming difficulties and problems that the Egyptian community in Iraq faces."

The paper, organ of Iraq's ruling Baath Party, did not elaborate. Many Egyptians have faced repercussions from their country's anti-Iraq position during the Gulf crisis.

The INA report said Mr. Abdul Karim "expressed his

hopes that the Arab solidarity is restored and said that was inevitable, and that all of us should work collectively in order to restore it as that serves the goals of the Arab nation."

"He asserted the necessity of offering assistance to Iraq, enabling it to surpass the crisis, as any additional power to Iraq's power and the Iraqi people's power is an additional power to the Egyptian people and the Arab people," the report said.

That referred to the U.N. trade embargo placed on Iraq after the invasion of Kuwait, which continues until the Security Council is satisfied that Baghdad has fully complied with Gulf war ceasefire resolutions.

Regional autonomy seen as key to Somalia peace deal

By Jonathan Wright
Reuters

MOGADISHU — The United Nations and the United States, making a virtue of necessity, are steering Somali politicians towards provincial autonomy as a first step towards reuniting a country fragmented into clan fiefdoms.

In preparations for a national reconciliation conference in Addis Ababa this week — the largest gathering of Somali leaders since rebels drove President Mohammad Siad Barre out of power two years ago — the two mediators are telling the Somalis it is too early to start work on a national government.

Most of the 16 Somali factions and 200 other prominent Somalis expected in Addis Ababa are in favour of devolving power to the regions anyway because of their unhappy experience with centralised government under Mr. Siad Barre.

U.S. and allied forces in Somalia, where they have intervened in the country's complicated clan politics, have concentrated on building up local police forces and encouraging Somalis to solve local disputes peacefully.

"Our hope is that regional structures will be gradually established. Some of the most pressing problems, such as reconciling squatters and displaced people, must be settled regionally," said one of the people helping prepare

the talks.

"Somalis are generally for local autonomy," he added. Most of the main factions have included decentralisation in their political manifestos and all 16 agreed to put regional autonomy on the agenda for the Addis Ababa conference.

"We want democracy at a local level," said Issa Mohammad Siad, head of the foreign relations department in the faction led by Mogadishu warlord General Mohammad Farah Aideded.

"Governors, for example, must be chosen by the local people."

The Somali Democratic Movement, a group which represents the large Rahanweyn clan, says it is proposing a federal system dividing

Somalia into four clan-based states — one for its own clan and one for each of the Hawiye, the Darod and the Isaaq.

Devolving power also bypasses the problem of Somalia, the unrecognised republic proclaimed by the Isaaq-dominated Somali National Movement (SNM) in the northwest in May 1991.

Many Somalis in the south say that they understand the Isaaq's reasons for secession — the clan suffered more than most under Mr. Siad Barre — and that they do not intend to force them back into union with the rest of the country.

"The main thing we are proposing is that we should not talk of forming a government. We are prepared to

talk of interim administration (by a civil service)," said Abdul Karim Ahmad Ali, secretary-general of General Aideded's group.

"If we talk of a government now, that will only encourage secession (by Somaliland)," he added. "Our policy is to let them choose unity, not to force it."

Adopting regional autonomy as a principle also matches the present reality of Somalia, where no armed group controls more than a fraction of the country.

Even the SNM government in the north has little influence outside the centre of the northern capital Hargeisa.

"The political programme of the SNM has always depended on a heavily decentralised system of govern-

ment," said the vice president of Somaliland, Hassan Issa Jama.

One exception is the faction led by Ali Mahdi Mohammad, Gen. Aideded's rival in Mogadishu and the man chosen as interim president of Somalia after Mr. Siad Barre's government fell.

Mr. Ali Mahdi, apparently because of his claim to the presidency, had wanted to submit a draft constitution to the Addis Ababa conference but the United Nations managed to talk him out of it, political sources said.

"The United Nations felt that a government of national unity would have to include all the factions and would be too weak to achieve anything," one source said.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00... Empires
19:00... News in French
19:15... Magazine Sport
19:30... News in Hebrew
20:00... News in Arabic
20:30... Step by Step
21:10... Martin Bay
22:00... News in English
22:20... Jordan Weekly
22:40... Vietnam

PRAYER TIMES

04:26... Fajr
05:43... (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:45... Dhuhr
15:59... 'Asr
17:47... Maghrib
19:04... Isha

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Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

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Deserts 2/13
Jordan Valley 7/17

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 11, Aqaba 20 Humidity readings: Amman 92 per cent, Aqaba 37 per cent.

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Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 11

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Suharto on re-election

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday sent a cable to Indonesian President Suharto, congratulating him on his re-election and wishing him continued good health and happiness and the Indonesian people further progress and prosperity.

Crown Prince hosts Ifar, attends graduation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday hosted an Ifar at an Air Force base in honour of Armed Forces, Public Security, Civil Defence and General Intelligence officers. Prince Hassan later attended a graduation ceremony for Air Force officers. The Crown Prince thanked the graduates for their efforts during the training and urged them to exert more effort to maintain and further develop their professional military skills. At the end of the ceremony, Prince Hassan awarded certificates to graduates and awards to those who excelled in their training. The ceremony was attended by the Chief of Staff of the Royal Air Force and senior Royal Air Force officers.

Jordan recognises ex-Czech republics

AMMAN (Petra) — Two Royal Decrees were issued Sunday endorsing two Cabinet decisions to recognise the republics of Slovakia and Czech, and designating Jordan's ambassador to Austria as non-resident ambassador to both republics.

PSD reports 75% fewer murders

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Sunday said the number of premeditated murders dropped by 75 per cent during the second week of March. A PSD weekly statistical bulletin said one of these murders was motivated by revenge. The bulletin also said smuggling case during that week dropped from 9 to 6; a decrease of 33.3 per cent. It said the number of crimes reported rose to 15, and added that thefts accounted for 43 per cent of the total. The remaining 57 per cent included cases of fraud, suicide, arson and festive firing.

Amnesty branch celebrates women's day

AMMAN (Petra) — A symposium on women's rights was organised Sunday at the University of Jordan as part of the ongoing celebrations by Amnesty International's Amman Branch of International Women's Day. Participants in the seminar discussed world constitutions and laws handling women's rights. They stressed the need to study systems to benefit from their positive aspects in order to put them into practice. The participants also discussed violations of women's rights and repressive measures taken against them in various parts of the world, particularly in the occupied Arab territories.

JUST holds seminar on expellees

RAMTHA (Petra) — A seminar on the plight of the 415 Palestinians expelled by Israel last December to southern Lebanon was held Sunday at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST). Speakers at the seminar which was organised by the cultural and information committee of the JUST Students' Federation included Lower House of Parliament members Yousef Al Azem and Abdul Rahim Al Ukour, in addition to an official from the Palestinian embassy.

Delinquents rehabilitated

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of the Social Defence Department of the Ministry of Social Development Ismail Abdul Qader Sunday said the philosophy of the department is based on the need to protect the society and citizens from social vices and to combat crimes and delinquency. Mr. Abdul Qader said crimes are considered as a form of malfunction in the society, and therefore should be addressed by taking measures aiming to reform individuals and identify the circumstances which led to them. The department, Mr. Abdul Qader said, studies cases of delinquents referred to it from civic courts.

Petroleum refinery sales rise

AMMAN (Petra) — The sales of the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company of oil derivatives during January and February this year amounted to 603,281 metric tonnes, against 575,601 metric tonnes in the same period last year, according to company sources. The sources said the company's sales of liquid gas rose by 14 per cent, gasoline by nine per cent and fuel oil by 11 per cent, and its sales of kerosene and diesel dropped by two per cent and nine per cent respectively.

Produce sales, exceed 60,000 tonnes

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 60,300 tonnes of fruits and vegetables were sold at Amman, Irbid and Zarqa wholesale markets last February, of which 57,500 were from local produce, 1,126 tonnes were imported from foreign markets and 1,681 were imported from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Sources at the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) said 70.7 per cent of the total volume were sold at the Amman central, 21.6 per cent in Irbid and 7.7 per cent in Zarqa. Of the produce offered at these markets, tomatoes accounted for 28.1 per cent, potatoes (17.2 per cent), oranges (8.1 per cent) cauliflower (6.7 per cent), mandarins (5.7 per cent), cucumbers (4.5 per cent), cabbage (3.8 per cent), lemons (3.5 per cent), carrots (2.7 per cent), onions and bananas (2.3 per cent each), apples (1.8 per cent) and the rest of vegetables and fruits (13.3 per cent).

Tafileh combats drought, unemployment

TAFILEH (Petra) — A special committee in charge of addressing drought and unemployment problems in Tafileh Governorate implemented several agricultural and water projects at a total cost of JD 483,180, according to Tafileh Governor Mohammad Al Tahlouni, who is also the committee's chairman. Mr. Tahlouni said the Higher Committee on Drought, which was formed in accordance with the prime minister's instructions, allocated JD 500,000 in 1990 to address the unemployment problem by providing job opportunities in water and agricultural projects. These projects include the maintenance of canals, springs construction of new agricultural roads and maintenance of existing ones. He said the government has also allocated JD 114,000 for the maintenance of roads and construction of boundary walls and culverts.

Balqa governor inspects road projects

SALT (Petra) — Balqa Governor Eid Al Qatarnah Sunday inspected work on the new eight-kilometre Eira-Al Karamah Road and the 20-kilometre Salt-Eira Jordan Valley Road. The director of the Balqa Public Works Department said the project has thus far cost the department JD 450,000. He said the department has allocated JD 130,000 to be spent on road projects in 1993.

Karak governor discusses councils' debts with bank official

KARAK (Petra) — Karak Governor Radhi Ibrahim Sunday met with Director General of the Cities and Villages Development Bank Zuhair Khalifeh and discussed with him issues related to the debts of the local councils in the governorate. The two officials also discussed loan applications by some of the municipal councils in the governorate and ways to allocate funds for joint services councils out of a sum of JD 342,480 appropriated by the Cabinet.

Ajloun to raise assistance to needy

AJLOUN (Petra) — The Ajloun Social Development Department Sunday decided to extend JD 3,000 in recurrent assistance to 106 needy families in the Ajloun district, the director of the department said. The director said the department has decided to raise the ceiling of recurrent assistance to some families, thus raising the total monthly assistance paid to the needy in the district to JD 5,474. The department offers JD 30,000 every month to 1,057 needy families.

Arab educational systems should include human rights, but various obstacles remain in the way — Mahafza

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As part of an Arab effort to promote human rights in the region, the Arab Organisation for Human Rights in Jordan plans to actively participate in the Vienna Conference on Human Rights to be held in June.

In adopting an Arab perspective regarding the promotion and protection of human rights, the organisation holds its National Conference today at the Royal Cultural Centre. Its aim is to tackle human rights issues in the Arab World as well as in Jordan and their relation to democracy, development and peace.

Three weeks ago, representatives of human rights organisations in the Arab countries, as well as representatives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALESCO) met in Tunis to discuss how best to include human rights in the educational systems of the Arab countries as well as find ways to raise public awareness of the

basic principles of democracy and liberty.

In a paper submitted to the Tunis conference by President of the Yarmouk University Ali Mahafza, an overall view of the human rights situation in the Arab World and the main obstacles to its development were thoroughly examined.

"The response in the Arab countries to the calls for including human rights in the educational system was and still is very slow," said Dr. Mahafza in his paper.

"The responsibility of all the catastrophes suffered by the Arab peoples falls mainly upon the Arab intellectuals rather than on the leaders or the regimes... every one is involved, at various degrees, in the massacre of Arab human rights and liberties. If they haven't participated in creating it, they at least participated in justifying it or sleeping on it," he said.

According to Dr. Mahafza, strenuous efforts have been exerted in the human rights arena especially after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1978 and 1982 and

the 1990 Iraq-Kuwait crisis. These crises have prompted intellectuals to rethink and analyse the causes behind Arab successive defeats which, according to Dr. Mahafza, are attributable to the absence of popular participation in political action, continuous violation of human rights and the weak popular response to eliminate such practices.

"Perhaps the most difficult thing is to promote education based on human rights in societies where democracy is totally absent or where it is practised in an incomplete manner"

"There is no doubt that there is a strong trend in the Arab countries towards an education based upon the respect for human rights," he said. "But this stream's efforts are dispersed and lack unity," he said.

The main obstacles to the application of human rights in the Arab countries are political, social, ideological and academic, Dr. Mahafza maintained.

At the political level, there is a noticeable absence of popular

political participation in decision-making, in addition to the dominance of the one-party rule in most of the Arab countries.

Also, educational programmes and textbooks are consecrated to serving the interests of the governing regimes. In countries where democracy and political parties exist, Dr. Mahafza claims human rights issues are

On the social level, the backwardness in the Arab societies, taking into account that 50 per cent of the Arab population is illiterate, is a main factor contributing to the people's lack of awareness of their rights.

Traditions and conventions and particular social notions that contradict human rights and democracy also play a major role: "What the child will learn at school concerning human rights and his basic freedoms are in sharp contradiction to what he lives and practices within his family and his surrounding environment," he said.

Other social barriers that are prevalent include the familial, tribal and ethnic affiliations in the Arab societies, where the individual is lost if he is separate from the family, the tribe or the religious sect he belongs to.

To him, the state cannot replace or provide him with the same protection.

At the ideological level, imitating (the West), the absence of creative thinking and the dominance of emotions pose serious hindrances to the introduction of human rights in the educational

system, Dr. Mahafza maintained. The absence of analytical thinking and the rejection or condemnation of opposition as blasphemous acts are cornerstones of the crises that democracy and liberty encounter.

"Perhaps the most difficult thing is to promote education based on human rights in societies where democracy is totally absent, or where it is practised in an incomplete manner," the paper reads.

In an effort to offer alternatives or steps that should be adopted to promote human rights in the Arab countries, Dr. Mahafza proposed that certain groups of intellectuals should be formed to lobby for human rights; consecrating their time and effort to promoting these rights.

"Human rights are included in many countries' constitutions," he said. "But this does not guarantee that the Arab individual fully enjoys the rights and liberties stipulated by these laws."

The introduction of some of these rights in certain constitutions are sometimes used as a tool to cover up for the oppressive nature of the regime.

Jordan, Syria review annual sports agreements

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister Youth of Saleh Irsheidat discussed with a visiting Syrian delegation, headed by President of the Syrian Olympic Committee Samih Al Mudallal the initial framework of a bilateral sports agreement.

At a meeting held at the Ministry of Youth, both officials stressed the need for further enhancing relations in the sport and youth fields.

They also called for exchanging visits between sports delegations from both countries and for holding joint training camps.

The two officials agreed to coordinate stands on various sports and youth events and decided to form a joint technical committee to draw up the final framework of a sport agreement which is renewed annually.

Later Mr. Mudallal and the Syrian delegation accompanying him visited the Jordan Olympic Committee and met with its president, Mawaffaq Al Fawaz, who reviewed the committee's plans and objectives and means of enhancing relations between the Syrian and Jordanian Olympic committees. Mr. Mudallal also visited Hussein Youth City and toured its various facilities. Mr. Mudallal arrived here Saturday on a two-day official visit to Jordan for talks with Dr. Irsheidat and senior Youth Ministry officials.

Digs uncover important sites in Tafileh region

TAFILEH (Petra) — Archaeological excavations in Tafileh Governorate have revealed many important discoveries in and around Tafileh, according to Director of Tafileh Antiquities Office Jihad Darwish.

Mr. Darwish said the office, in cooperation with antiquities and archaeological teams, have uncovered an important archaeological site in Ein Dahla, including village and ancient agricultural settlements.

The office also discovered rectangular rooms with tiled courts, linked to an old temple dating back to the Nabatean era.

The rooms are part of Al Sarib Village Project in Tafileh Governorate.

Mr. Darwish said the antiquities office carried out several archaeological survey in the Governorate last year in cooperation with Arab and foreign archaeological expert missions.

The surveys included Al Hassa region where 78 sites were identified. Those sites date back to various historical eras, including the stone, Roman, Nabatean, early and late Islamic ages.

The surveys were conducted by the Antiquities Office in cooperation with Arizona University.

Other surveys were undertaken in cooperation with the American Centre for Oriental Research (ACOR) these surveys uncovered 36 archaeological sites in the Governorate along the Roman road, in addition to 49 colonnades and two stone bases dating back to the Roman era which were found on the sides of the road.

Mr. Darwish also spoke of new discoveries in the Tawabah area, dating back to the classical, Byzantine and Islamic eras.

In western Tafileh, excavations revealed more than 37 archaeological sites dating back to different eras.

Jordan to take part in Vienna UNRWA meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is taking part in the meetings of the Advisory Committee of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian refugees in the Near East which will open in Vienna today.

Jordan is represented at the meetings by an official delegation headed by Director of the Palestinian Affairs Department Adel Irsheid, who left for Vienna Sunday.

Dr. Irsheid told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, prior to his

departure that UNRWA's budget will be the main issue under discussion at the several-day meetings.

The meetings will also discuss measures taken by the agency to collect medical fees from Palestinian refugees as of next July, he said.

Taking part in the meetings are delegations representing the U.S., the United Kingdom, Belgium, Turkey and Japan, in addition to countries hosting Palestinian refugees — Jordan, Syria, Egypt and Lebanon.

CONDOLENCES

The committee and members of the British Ladies of Amman wish to extend their deepest sympathy to Col. A. Gardiner and his family on the sad loss of his beloved wife

DORIS

As a founder member of the B.L.A. She will be remembered with affection and sadly missed.

Correction

Sunday a report inadvertently read that Mutha University President Mohammad Adnan Al Bakhit was appointed president of Al Al Bai Foundation. It should have read Dr. Al Bakhit was appointed President of Al Al Bai University by a Royal Decree.

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Cabinet reduces costs of new Aqaba housing

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDC) Yousef Hiyasat Sunday said the corporation today will start recalculating prices of housing units in the Shallah neighbourhood in Aqaba, in implementation of a Cabinet decision.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Hiyasat said the recomputation process was called for by the Cabinet following an examination of a report prepared by the HUDC on the cost of the housing units built in the Shallah neighbourhood to replace old and dilapidated buildings.

The corporation's report estimated the selling prices, allowing for an additional reduction in the prices to suit the financial situation of the people who would benefit from the housing project.

Mr. Hiyasat said that based on that report, the Cabinet decided to reduce the price of each square metre from JD 9 to JD5.5.

Trade group will seek new markets in Germany

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the Jordan Trade Association (JTA), headed by association president Samih Darwazah, Sunday left for Germany on a four-city tour that includes Frankfurt, Berlin, Bonn and Hamburg.

In a departure statement Mr. Darwazah said the delegation, which includes representatives of the industrial and commercial sectors, will hold meetings with German exporters and importers, as well as with bank cooperative officials and heads of German companies interested in starting joint ventures in Jordan.

One of the objectives of the delegation's tour is to search for new markets for Jordanian industries, to replace the traditional Gulf markets. Mr. Darwazah said.

He said Jordanian products are of high quality and be voiced hope that they can compete with other products in the German and East European markets.

The tour was organised by the JTA in cooperation with the German embassy in Amman, the German Federal Ministry of Economy and the Federation of German Chambers of Industry and Trade.

Similar Jordanian delegations had earlier visited Russia, Austria, Sudan, and Lebanon in search of new markets.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition entitled "The Present Islamic World in Photos and News" at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST).
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by four Arab artists from the United States — Ghada Jamal, Helen Khal, Suha Noursi and Afaf Zurayk — at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery in Jabal Amman, between the First and Second Circles (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975
الجزيرة الأردنية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

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Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Chance offers itself

THE PROJECTED meeting of the concerned Arab foreign ministers in Damascus on March 28 offers the opportunity for the Arab parties to the peace talks to intensify their efforts to help get the peace process resumed in April in Washington. Only the PLO is on record as having rejected the U.S.-Russian invitation issued to all the parties to attend the ninth round of the peace parleys. The Palestinian rejection of the sponsors' invitation, as Palestinians increasingly make clear, relates not only to the stand-off over the Palestinian expellees now in their third month in South Lebanon but also to Palestinian apprehension that the U.S. is going back on the Madrid formula. The Syrian initiative to hold a meeting, 3 weeks before the negotiations are to resume on April 20, can therefore be seen as a genuine effort to convince the Palestinian side that, on balance, it would be more prudent for all the Arab parties to resume the talks with Israel, now that the U.S. has pledged to play an "active role" in the Arab-Israeli negotiations and a U.N.-sanctions plan has been formulated to solve the dilemma of the exiled Palestinians.

No matter what progress may result from the resumption of the talks, it seems that a collective Arab position needs to be taken.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's visit to Washington and his talks with President Bill Clinton might still bear fruit and produce a satisfactory outcome based on the six-point plan put forward by the Palestinians and initially considered by the U.S. It would be foolish for the U.S. and Israel to think that it would be easy for the other Arab parties to attend without the Palestinians. It would also be naive of them to expect Syria to enter into a separate deal with Israel. Syria, like all the other Arab partners, is genuinely interested in real peace. Jordan has repeatedly warned that this might be the last opportunity for peace in the region. Jordan wants the talks to resume, but finds no logic in the talks resuming without the Palestinians.

Whatever resolution the Arabs might take at the Damascus meeting will surely be honoured by the Palestinians. After all, this is the basis of a collective Arab stand where the majority view can be expected to prevail.

The ball now is in the Israel and the U.S. court. They alone can effectively defuse the expellee problem once and for all. That Rabin is now in Washington offers a rare opportunity for President Clinton to wrap up a deal on the Palestinian deportees in time for the next round of peace negotiations to start in earnest.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily said in an editorial Sunday that Palestinian heroic operations against the Israeli occupation forces will remain a legitimate right for the Palestinian people since they can not remain forever an open target for Israeli bullets and murderers. It said although living people cry at the hands of their murderers, they still confront them and resist all offences. Since the Palestinians do not have an army to confront the Zionist army, and they do not have military bases, planes, cannons and nuclear installations to face their enemy, it was natural that they use knives and sticks to resist the occupation of their land, the paper said. It added that if the Palestinians did not do that, it would be difficult for them to liberate their usurped land, regain their freedom and remove the chains from their will. What is happening all over Palestine of heroic deeds and resistance operations is timely, because the Israelis realise the magnitude of their illusion, which they believed to be a dream come true, the paper said, adding that the Israelis stand now in front of a truth they have always tried to ignore. Forty-four years since the occupation of the rest of its land, in addition to all of Israel's military supremacy, arrogance, support and underestimation of international legitimacy and the Arab Nation, could not give to Israel one day of peace. Today, it stands as it did four decades ago, totally rejected. Al Ra'i said. The killing of a Canadian immigrant to Palestine, the death of a Russian immigrant, an American, Polish or Italian who were deceived and made to move to Palestine under the claim that it is the land of Israel, should make the Israelis reassess their plans and thoughts, the newspaper said. The Israeli final victory is not when they defeat Arab armies and weapons, nor when 33 countries come to sign a peace treaty with one Arab country, or twenty Arab countries. Their real victory, the paper said, is when they overcome the will of the Arab Palestinians in Palestine and in the Arab World, that, however is impossible, said the paper. The whole arsenal of Israel... its supremacy and arrogance and the support it gets from the new and old world orders has not and will not defeat a Palestinian fist, a knife or even a stick, it said.

Al Dustour said in its editorial that the final countdown for Russian President Boris Yeltsin's days in power has started since some time. The paper said the conflict over the authority between Yeltsin and the Russian parliament has become intense, which gives the chance for several possibilities to take place, including undermining Mr. Yeltsin's grip on power and other unpredictable possibilities. The gradual deterioration in the power of the Russian president and the emergence of important centres of power in Moscow at the present are identical to events which occurred during the last days of former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, which indicates that there is a prospect of the same scenario recurring, said Al Dustour. The paper added that there is no doubt that what is happening in Russia currently is caused by the severe economic problems and the deterioration in the standards of living which was the same as what happened two years ago when the economic crisis and its social and political repercussions led to the overthrow of Gorbachev and the ensuring fragmentation of the Soviet Union. Al Dustour blamed the West for the turmoil in Russia, saying that Western conspiracies had aimed at impoverishing Russia and undermining its economy. The paper said that those who place their bets on Western powers, such as Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Yeltsin, should expect their fall. The lessons learned from these developments in Russia should make one stop from betting on Western powers and to rely as much as possible on oneself, the paper concluded.

Weekly Political Pulse

By Waleed Sadi

Marriage of the two banks here to stay

THE LATEST Jordanian Bar Association (JBA) elections brought to the fore once again the legal implications of the 1988 decision to break all legal and administrative relations between Jordan and the West Bank. Many lawyers who participated in last week's elections challenged the election of Dr. Kamal Nasser as president of JBA on account of the fact that 150 lawyers from the West Bank took part in the elections. Their main bone of contention is the proposition that by virtue of the decision to break legal and administrative relations between the two banks, the 150 lawyers who cast their votes on March 5 were not truly Jordanian citizens.

To buttress their argument, they referred to an earlier verdict by the High Court of Justice that viewed the 1988 decision as an exercise of a "sovereignty" right and its legal import is fully binding.

On the strength of that judicial interpretation, the people of the West Bank, who were Jordanian citizens, are deemed as no longer so. The best evidence of this, they point out, is the refusal of the authorities to grant them regular passports and the restrictions placed on their presence in the Kingdom.

The controversy over the legal interpretation of the 1988 decision to break legal and administrative ties with the West Bank will not end even though the High Court of Justice has in fact made a "political" attempt to construe it in a manner consistent with national policy on the subject.

Jurists, nevertheless, will find the current hindering interpretation wanting on many grounds, one of which is the constitutional and legal constraints that do not allow the revocation of the citizenship of any Jordanian except by a decision of the Cabinet. As for the collective change of the citizenship status of the people of the West Bank, this cannot be done except by the adoption of a law.

Even when a law has been enacted for this purpose, it cannot enjoy a retroactive force. As the people of the West Bank were Jordanians and no law has been yet legislated to revoke their citizenship rights, it would seem more legal and constitutionally

correct to continue to regard them and their offspring as Jordanians with full rights and duties.

Given the fact that no law can have a retroactive effect, it would seem difficult to stop even the future generations in the West Bank from maintaining their Jordanian nationality unless they individually or collectively opt to renounce their citizenship in favour of another.

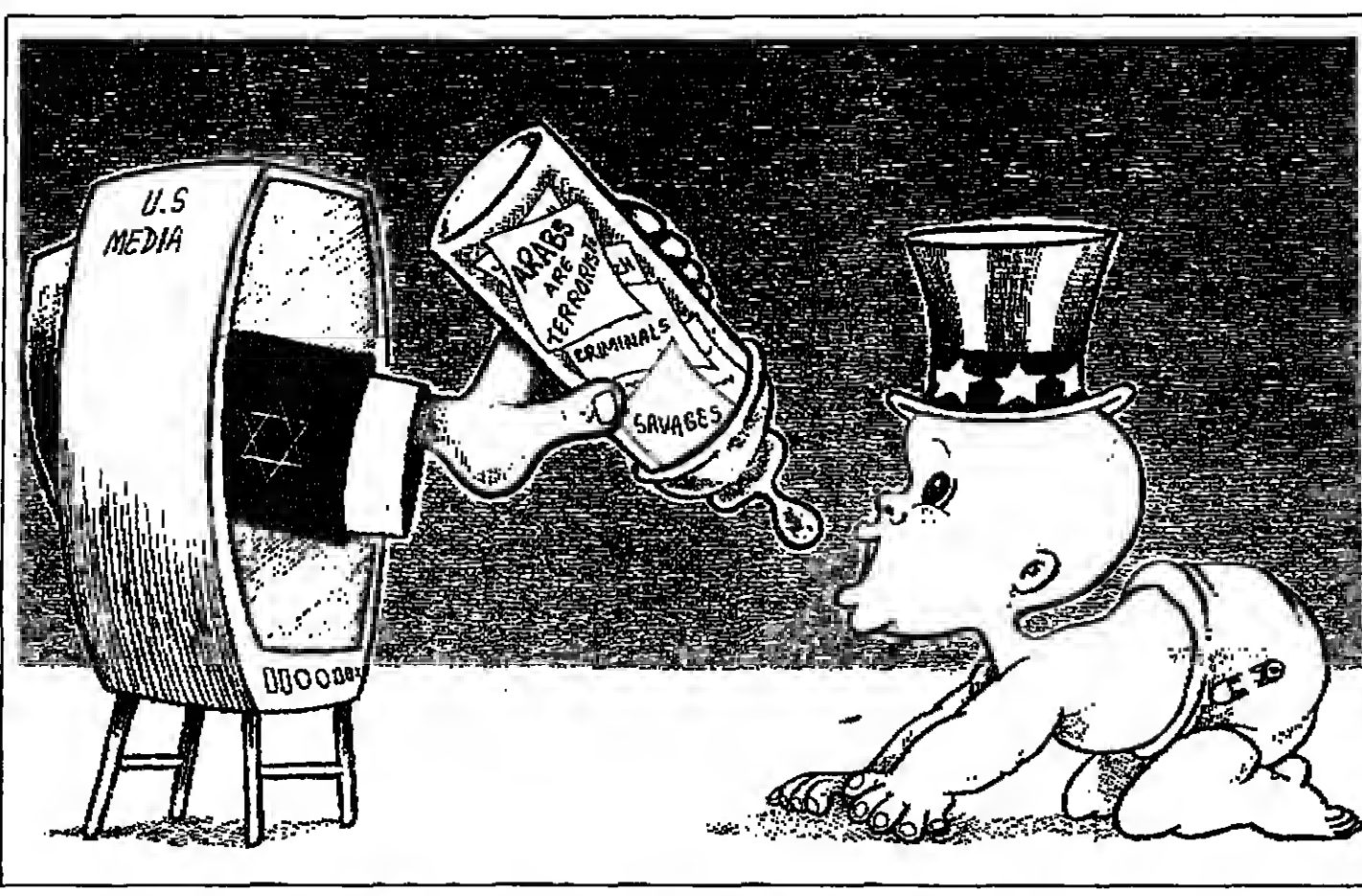
There is no denying that the 1988 national decision to renounce the former relations between the two banks has created a legal mess that was obviously not envisaged by the proponents of the decision in the first place. This is not to question the good intentions behind the decision, which were politically inspired to cope with a range of political considerations, mainly the Arab and Palestinian decision to accord the Palestinians a separate identity and an opportunity to speak for themselves.

Notwithstanding these noble motivations, the legal problems that arose as a result of the political decision should have been better appraised and reflected upon not only on the basis of national laws but also on the basis of relevant international law.

The arbitrary way the legal ramifications of the 1988 decision have been dealt with or brushed aside runs counter to the democratisation process that was initiated in 1989. It is high time therefore that Parliament be invited to look thoroughly into the matter with a view to recommending the measures that may rectify the various legal lacunae created by the precipitous efforts to cut off the West Bank from the rest of the country.

From a strictly legal point of view, the two banks are stuck together more forcefully than many people realise. Makeshift efforts to undo the effect of the law will simply not do. The sooner that both sides accept the fact that the two banks are more glued together than they think, the sooner they'll realise that their "catholic" marriage is here to stay.

Such an appraisal would push even harder for an ultimate solution to the Palestinian case within the context of the Hashemite Kingdom.



Human rights

A test of U.S.- Egyptian relations

By Mimi Mann
The Associated Press

CAIRO — Hisham Mubarak Hassan bends forward when someone speaks. Ask him whether there is torture in Egypt and he quietly tells his story.

He speaks of being beaten on the ears by Egyptian security officers at a Cairo prison in 1989. "They kept hitting me on my ears," he said. "They were bleeding."

Mr. Hassan, a lawyer, said he has had surgery on one ear and doctors plan to operate on the other.

He was arrested because of a strike at a government steel plant and accused of belonging to a secret Communist organisation.

Mr. Hassan said he merely belonged to the Bar Association's Freedom Committee.

Now he is on the staff of the Egyptian organisation for Human Rights, one of several groups demanding an end to torture and other human rights abuses in Egypt.

Officials deny Mr. Hassan or anyone else has been tortured.

"We have no torture in Egypt," said Mohammad Abdel Moneim, spokesman for President Hosni Mubarak. "President Mubarak never for one moment would allow it."

A U.S. state department report issued Jan. 20, however, cites "convincing evidence that police and security forces systematically practice torture" and said torturers "are seldom punished."

Bah'uddin Ibrahim, spokesman for the Interior Ministry, said the allegation was based on information from "persons who have an obvious interest in levelling accusations at the security bodies."

The human rights issue could become a major irritant to relations between the new Clinton administration and Egypt, a

strong ally.

Specialists on the Middle East are divided about whether Washington will get tough on rights, as many advocates demand.

"It may take weeks or months, but Egypt's human rights situation will be addressed," said Jim Zogby of the Arab American Institute, a private think tank in Washington that studies U.S. relations with Arab governments.

President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher have said they will raise the standards on human rights.

On Mr. Christopher's first visit to the Middle East, which began Feb. 18 in Cairo, human rights

early morning of Aug. 24, 1989. Nine others shared his cell, he said, and the 10 were "accused of masterminding the strike."

First, he said, inmates were brought from other cells into the corridor and "beaten by security officers in front of our eyes."

"Then we were brought out," he said. "At first, we had to run back and forth between two rows of officers who were beating us. At one end, guards held dogs."

Back in the cell Mr. Hassan said, they were lined up against a wall and beaten again. "I turned around and saw their faces," he said of the security officers.

"They singled me out for harsher beating."

"Both Egyptian and international human rights groups have accused the Egyptian government of allowing the use of torture. Most allegations involve extremists seeking to replace the secular regime with an Islamic one."

probably were not on the agenda. His mission was to talk through such issues as Israel's expulsion of Palestinian activists to southern Lebanon and the resulting impasse in U.S.-sponsored peace talks.

Egypt, the only Arab country officially at peace with Israel, has tried to help resolve both problems.

Both Egyptian and international human rights groups have accused the Egyptian government of allowing the use of torture. Most allegations involve extremists seeking to replace the secular regime with an Islamic one.

Mr. Hassan said he and 59 other people, including engineers, journalists and doctors, were arrested separately in the

October and two foreigners and two Egyptians in the bombing of a Cairo coffee shop Feb. 26.

Many Egyptians support strong measures against the violence, but "when we speak about human rights, we're not just talking about rights for Muslim extremists who throw bombs at tourists or shoot Christians," Mr. El Din said.

"We're talking about human rights for families of suspected extremists, old men, wives and children being tortured in horrible ways: rape, electric shocks, many things."

Middle East Watch, a branch of the U.S. organisation Human Rights Watch, urged the United States in July 1992 to halt aid to Egypt until "torture and prolonged arbitrary detention end."

In February, it issued a report that criticises prison conditions in Egypt and accuses authorities of condoning whippings and beatings. The report, based on an eight day inspection of six prisons a year ago, said investigators found no evidence of systematic torture.

"Torture" is the one word that brings a response from American officials," said Tim Sullivan, political science professor at the American University in Cairo.

"Congress keeps pushing democracy and human rights issues," the U.S. Congress demands human rights reports on every country that receives U.S. aid. Egypt gets more than any country except Israel, almost \$2.3 billion a year in loans and grants.

Mr. Sullivan suggested that human rights usually take a back seat to other concerns.

"Egypt is the only country in the Middle East that the U.S. truly could count on to act in its interests," he said. "It's probable American officials will look at the violations, ponder Egypt's strategic importance and turn the page."

Democracy and political Islam

No inherent compatibility?

By Rosalind Mandine Murphy

WASHINGTON — Many societies today find themselves at the crossroads of two currents of history — the rise of democracy and the rise of Islamic awareness. Many Western scholars are debating whether these two currents are compatible.

The November 1992 issue of The Annals, the journal of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences, is devoted to the topic of political Islam. The two editors of that issue, William Zartman and Charles Butterworth, discussed their thoughts on political Islam during a March 10 seminar at the Woodrow Wilson Centre for Scholars.

Mr. Zartman is professor of international organisation and conflict resolution and Director of African Studies at the Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University. Mr. Butterworth is Professor of political science at the University of Maryland and a fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Centre.

Mr. Zartman and Mr. Butterworth contributed articles to The Annals issue on political Islam, as well as serving as editors. In the articles, Mr. Zartman looks at the question of political Islam and democracy from a Western perspective, while Mr. Butterworth reviews the history of political Islam through the writings of its proponents.

Addressing scholars, students, government officials and journalists at the Woodrow Wilson Centre, Mr. Butterworth said the goal of his essay is to call for greater tolerance in Western thinking on political Islam and "a more frank analysis on the problems of democracy."

Mr. Butterworth touched on divergent Western and Islamicist views on the goal of government.

In the West, a legitimate government is one that respects and preserves natural human freedoms and equality, Mr. Butterworth said. Political Islam, however, sees moral virtue as a greater goal than individual freedom, he said. "Freedom itself is not enough."

"We in the West are more concerned with safeguarding freedom than with providing for citizen virtue," Mr. Butterworth said in his article. Criticism in the West of political Islam often centres on this point — "whether moral improvement is the proper

concern of government or not," he states.

His essay in The Annals reminds the Western reader "that we are not always so secularist... nor so democratically inclined." He called on the West to reflect on the evolution of its own democratic values, as well as the evolution of political Islam.

Mr. Butterworth argues there is a "failure in current Western analysis of political Islam to pay sufficient attention" to the history of its thought, the changes in the goals sought by its proponents, and the changes in the audience these spokesmen are addressing.

Asked what a democratic Islamic society would look like, Mr. Butterworth said today's spokesmen on political Islam are short on details.

"There is little discourse on government," he said. This lack of attention to the procedure of government is another point of Western criticism of political Islam, he says in his article.

Democracy and political Islam "will not remain unmixed," Mr. William Zartman said. These two currents "will have an influence on each other and we will see many mixes of democracy and Islam."

In his article, Mr. Zartman states that democracy and political Islam are not inherently incompatible. However, he states, "When political Islam, in the name of cleaning out the stables of corruption and alienation, promises to install a system where only those who subscribe to the true path are allowed into the contest for power, then the incompatibility arises."

Mr. Zartman stressed the importance of repeated elections in the effort to merge political Islam and democracy. "The losers have a chance to come back," he said.

When one party claims "for itself the mantle of the national religion, monopolising its symbols and delegitimising its opponents, open democratic debate and the guarantee of future free elections are hard to insure," he writes in his article.

Political Islam will have to be put "to the test" through practice of democratic values, such as elections, respect for civil liberties and human rights, a free press, autonomous judiciary and independent parties, associations, and unions, he said. USA.

Suharto

Indonesia's economic saviour

Reuters

JAKARTA — Indonesian President Suharto is a former army corporal and bank clerk who rescued southeast Asia's largest country from economic collapse and put it on the road to industrialisation.

The retired general, who has assured the military a key role in politics, was re-elected unopposed Wednesday for a sixth five-year term.

Since succeeding the late President Sukarno in 1968, he has brought unity to a diverse archipelago through shrewd political manoeuvring and ruthless suppression of any threat to stability.

Mr. Suharto, 71, has made Indonesia self-sufficient in staple rice and won international praise for birth control and anti-poverty programmes.

His economic policy has been kept in the hands of mostly U.S.-trained technocrats who have brought in broad reforms such as opening up the financial sector, and laid down an industrial base.

The technocrats helped Mr. Suharto rescue the country from the economic shambles left by Mr. Sukarno, who died in disgrace in 1970.

The runaway inflation of the 1960s has been kept to less than 10 per cent a year and Indonesia is praised by donors for never having missed debt repayments.

In his budget speech in January, Mr. Suharto made clear he would stick to his slow-but-sure economic policy.

Cautious change has also been the hallmark of political reform, yielding only slowly to pressure for more openness.

A soldier of Javanese peasant origin, Mr. Suharto contrasts with the flamboyant, Sukarno, who declared Indonesia a republic in 1945.

But his apparent simplicity masks a ruthless political mind. Two years after crushing a coup on Sept. 30, 1965, the barely-noticed major-general had manoeuvred aside the immensely popular Sukarno.

Mr. Suharto took effective control of the country immediately after the abortive coup, which was blamed on pro-Beijing communists.

One of the worst massacres in history followed as vengeful Muslims and soldiers killed hundreds of thousands of communists and their sympathisers.

Tens of thousands more were jailed and the powerful Communist Party, third largest in the world at the time, was outlawed.

Mr. Suharto was named acting president in 1967 and in 1968 was installed as president by the People's Consultative Assembly.

Islam, the country's dominant religion, has been kept in check and Muslim extremists have been dealt with harshly.

But by the early 1990s, with the election in sight, Mr. Suharto changed tack and began wooing the mostly Muslim population, making a pilgrimage to Mecca and setting up a Muslim intellectual association.

In 1992, Indonesia became chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement of 108 countries and immediately tried to switch the focus from political confrontation with the West to improving the economies of the developing world.

During Mr. Suharto's rule, Indonesia incorporated in 1969 the western half of the huge island of New Guinea — now known as Irian Jaya — and in 1976 the former Portuguese colony of East Timor causing sporadic separatist uprisings in both provinces.

An army massacre in 1991 in East Timor put Indonesia back under the international spotlight on human rights, but diplomats say Mr. Suharto skillfully managed to prevent the international criticism from having any serious impact on the country.

He has steered a fairly neutral foreign policy which opposes superpower interference. In 1967 Jakarta became a founder member of the non-Communist Association of South-East Asian Nations.

Mr. Suharto was born on June 8, 1921, one of the 11 children of a minor official in the village of Kemusu. His parents divorced soon afterwards and he was shunted around among his parents and relatives.

As a teenager he studied Islam and traditional Javanese mysticism. He is said to still practise the latter, meditating occasionally in a sacred cave in central Java.

After a period as a bank clerk, the 19-year-old Suharto joined the Dutch Colonial Army and became a corporal. During Japanese occupation he joined the Japanese-trained "Indonesian Army" as a commissioned officer and after the war fought with Indonesian guerrillas against the Dutch.

سكتة من مصر

King, PLO envoys hold talks

(Continued from page 1)

railed the peace process could be resolved by the next round of talks.

"We have about 35 days left (before the scheduled start of the ninth round of talks) so there is some time," Dr. Abu Jaber told Reuters.

"The issue should be resolved by that time," he added.

Dr. Abu Jaber did not provide specifics, but Jordanian and Palestinian officials as well as Western diplomats believe consultations between Arab parties and between the United States and Israel could result in a compromise on the expellees.

Dr. Abu Jaber stressed that any solution should include Israeli compliance with U.N. Resolution 799 demanding the return of the almost 400 Palestinian expellees who remain in South Lebanon.

Palestinian negotiators directed by the PLO have refused to accept an invitation to the talks until the issue is resolved.

Dr. Abu Jaber would not comment on whether Jordan would attend the next round of negotiations with Israel, scheduled to begin on April 20, if the Palestinians stayed away.

"We want a joint Arab stand based on what has taken place so far on the peace process and the problem of the deportees," he said.

Mr. Kaddoumi told Jordan Television that his talks in Amman focused on coordinating Jordanian-Palestinian stands and the stands of the Arab parties to the peace talks.

"We are keenly interested in having this Arab cooperation and coordination so as to unify the Arab stand and to bolster our negotiations cards," Mr. Kaddoumi said.

He said visits made by a Palestinian delegation to European countries recently aimed to discuss Europe's future role in the peace talks.

He said head of the Palestinian Steering Committee Faisal Al Hussein was accompanied on his recent London visit by two officials from the PLO's Political Department. "This is a recognition of the PLO and that is what we stipulated," he said.

"One of our brothers from the inside (the occupied territories) was invited to the talks, which is something we approve and work for. But the PLO should be present in all such meetings," he added.

Press law clears Parliament

(Continued from page 1)

as amended by the Senate to save time and make sure the draft legislation is completed.

While the majority of deputies see the draft legislation as an improvement upon its predecessor, many journalists were disappointed with it, calling it "oppressive."

Journalists opposed to the draft legislation argued that it puts many limitations on their freedom and leaves the government with too much power to curb freedom of expression in the country.

The draft legislation will now be referred back to the Senate and it will become effective when it is decreed as law by His Majesty King Hussein.

In its session Sunday, the House also approved a draft law on economic crimes as amended

by the Senate. The Senate abolished article 5 which gives the law a retroactive effect, article 6 which prescribes punishments for attempts to commit crimes punishable under the law and article 7 which bans easing of sentences pronounced under the legislation.

The House also held a lengthy discussion of the government's new regulations for civil service appointments. The majority of the 18 deputies who spoke on the issue urged equal distribution of work opportunities among citizens and an end to "unfair appointment practices and nepotism."

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker said the government will take deputies' remarks into consideration "and benefit from them."

Israelis kill 3-year-old girl

(Continued from page 1)

labourers. Meir Tzbur, who lives in the Gaza settlement of Gan Or, said he did not know if the settlement could find or pay for Jewish labour to replace the 200 Arabs who picked its tomatoes.

"Arab labour is cheaper and is readily available. Arabs will work and Jews won't. That is all there is to it," Mr. Tzbur said, adding the problem was not limited to the Gaza Strip but plagued Israeli farms as well.

Israel is suffering more than 10 per cent unemployment. Labour Minister Ora Namir said her ministry would provide transport and a 30 shekel (\$11) bonus above the minimum daily wage to any Israeli willing to work on the Gaza farms.

The daily Haaretz editorialised that Israel's reliance on cheap Arab Labour from Gaza and the West Bank needs a "basic change in the moral climate that has reigned in the Jewish society."

But the paper added: "An increased suspicion towards the Palestinians will not be enough to bring about this change."

Gun dealers reported a spurt in activity as Israelis considered buying a gun for the first time or trading in small-calibre handguns for more powerful models.

"Once the need for a gun was limited largely to people who lived or worked or drove in the (occupied) territories," said Yavir Ben-Yehudah, head of the Lahav weapons store chain. "Today the need seems to be in the middle of Tel Aviv."

Interior Minister Arye Deri, responsible for gun licensing, said the public already had too many guns, Israel Radio said.

In an army radio telephone poll of 3,000 Israelis, 72 per cent said they favoured the police call to carry guns.

Human rights activists have said that since the expulsions of Israeli troops are resorting to gunfire more often, leading to the sharp rise in Arab deaths.

Sarid: Gaza will be PLO-led state

(Continued from page 1)

tion to put pressure on Mr. Rabin during his current visit to the United States to accept a solution to the expellee crisis.

"The U.S. administration pledged during Christopher's tour of the region to solve the expellees' crisis before the resumption of the peace talks," Al Baath said.

Hekmatyar hopes to form new cabinet

(Continued from page 1)

killed thousands of people since mujahideen groups toppled the pro-communist government in Kabul last April after a 14-year civil war.

Iran has expressed reservations about the accord, brokered by Mr. Sharif and signed by eight Afghan leaders, as it does not guarantee a share of power for Shiite groups and leaves open the key question of who is to hold the Defence Ministry.

Mr. Rafsanjani accused Islam's enemies of sowing dissent in Afghanistan and said Muslim countries should discuss ways of helping it embark on reconstruction.

The peace pact, he added, "provided favourable grounds" for Muslim states to look at ways of helping Afghanistan rebuild.

Iran and Saudi Arabia, regional rivals whose surrogate factions have fought some of the fiercest battles in Afghanistan since April, have both backed Pakistan's peace efforts.

Before leaving Tehran, Mr. Sharif said he hoped the Afghan factions would "sincerely abide" by the peace accord they signed one week ago in Islamabad.

Details of the pact have not been disclosed, but officials have said the Afghan leaders have agreed to share power.

Police look for timer in bombing

(Continued from page 1)

the mother of 25-year-old Nidal Ayyad, a Palestinian-American chemical engineer who, like Mr. Salameh, has been charged with aiding and abetting the bombing. Mr. Precht said Mr. Salameh wants to tell Mr. Ayyad's mother "about his distress and apologies for getting her son involved ... he feels that Mr. Ayyad was arrested because he made the mistake of knowing Mr. Salameh."

Mr. Precht said Mr. Salameh was a victim of "sinister interpretations" of otherwise innocent evidence such as a bank account he held with Mr. Ayyad. The account has become the focus of investigators following a trail of money that investigators think helped finance the attack.

Morillon pressing for Serb concessions

(Continued from page 1)

corridor for evacuation of wounded to Tuzla, and a ceasefire. But Vesna Grubacic, a spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Belgrade, said that the convoy for Srebrenica was stalled on the Yugoslav side of the border for the third day.

She said it left Mali Zvornik on the Serb side of the border but was halted again by Serb forces before it reached the Bosnian border. It later turned back to Mali Zvornik.

"We cannot explain such a move" by Serbian authorities, she said.

Meanwhile, an attempt by U.N. peacekeepers to help Bosnian legislators enter Sarajevo to debate a crucial peace plan for Bosnia has been cancelled because of Serb objections, another U.S. commander said.

Mr. Ganic said his government would continue to press the U.N. peacekeepers to get the Bosnian parliament members into Sarajevo, despite Serb objections. He said the U.N. had an obligation to ensure free movement for all participants in the peace process.

Mr. Ganic said it would be difficult for Bosnian president Alija Izetbegovic to go back to the peace talks in New York without the backing of parliament.

In Zagreb, UNHCR spokeswoman Alekha Lisinski also said Gen. Morillon would stay in Srebrenica until his demands are met.

Gen. Morillon was prevented from leaving Srebrenica by crowds of stranded and desperate people. Pressure from the crowds later eased, but Gen. Morillon decided to stay as a gesture of

U.N. troops mobilise in Somali row

(Continued from page 1)

were posted on the roof. Other military vehicles guarded the narrow streets nearby.

The U.S. military spokesman, Marine Colonel Fred Peck, said the demonstration was peaceful and that as far as he was aware none of those in the crowd were armed.

He said the WFP had considered evacuating some staff from Mogadishu but had eventually decided against it.

After two and a half hours of talks a U.N. official said they had no progress and would meet again. "There is no change on either side. They will meet again

on Tuesday," he said.

When the Americans came in, some relief workers had said the redundant guards might turn out to be a problem. They said the United Nations and other organisations should try to find them some alternative employment.

Col. Peck also said it was U.S. soldiers who thought they shot dead two Somalis who fired at the International Red Cross compound in the southern port of Kismayu Saturday.

Earlier on Sunday a U.N. spokesman said it was Belgian troops who killed them. Other Somalis dragged the bodies away before the troops could reach them.

Algeria seeks blueprint for future

(Continued from page 1)

front (FLN), which was trounced in the first round of the aborted election. More are scheduled for the next three weeks.

On Saturday, in a neutral kickoff, Mr. Kafi met members of the independence war fighters' association, of which he is still secretary-general.

The presidency said the talks focused on amending the constitution and "prolonging the period of transition, thus enabling the country to eradicate the roots of the crisis."

The presidency was formed, outside the constitution, when President Chadli Benjedid quit in January 1992.

Even whether to go to the talks has caused problems for some parties. The moderate Islamic party Hamas has been invited but wants the authorities some-

how to include FIS moderates. Beside the FLN, the Socialist Forces Front and the Rally for Culture and Democracy are among the most important of the 60-odd political groups. So far they have refused to say whether they will attend the talks, termed by the government newspaper the "last chance" dialogue.


The crisis is deepened by the unpopularity of appointed Prime Minister Belaid Abdul Salam, a former minister from the socialist 1970s.

He has no political base and is suspected of fundamentalist leanings and of being tempted to take Algeria back to the state-run economy of its early days of independence.

The economy is crippled by repayments of \$26 billion foreign debt, despite oil and gas wealth.


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Jordan Times'

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

World Youth Soccer Championship

Brazil overcome U.S. 3-0; England beat Mexico

ADELAIDE (AP) — Defender Bruno scored a goal in each half Sunday, lifting two-time champion Brazil to a 3-0 victory over the United States in the quarter-finals of soccer's World Youth Championship.

A pinpoint cross from winger Cate set up the opening goal in the 32nd minute, when Bruno headed home from close range.

Cate also created the second goal in the 50th minute when his long cross went right across the penalty area, leaving the U.S. defense in disarray. Adriano fired a low drive past goalkeeper Jeff Cassar.

Bruno tapped in the third goal from just metres out in the 90th minute after a cross from Gian.

Brazil dominated the game in the midfield, but found the American defenders in a determined mood. Cassar made a succession of spectacular saves to

keep the United States in contention.

Brazil now will play host Australia in the semifinals at Olympic Park in Melbourne Wednesday night.

Australia advanced to the semifinals for the second straight time by scoring a 2-1 victory over Uruguay in sudden death extra time in Brisbane Saturday night.

Brazil is likely to be without defender Wagner for its semifinal. Wagner was carried from the field on a stretcher just before halftime with a suspected hamstring injury.

In another match England defeated Mexico 4-0 in a penalty shootout Sunday night after the teams were tied 0-0 after regulation time and 30 minutes of sudden death extra time in the quarter-finals of soccer's World Youth Championship.

On a sultry night at Olympic

Park, England advanced when it netted all four of its penalties. Jesus Olalde and Juan Solis missed kicks for Mexico.

England now will play Ghana in the semifinals in Sydney Wednesday night.

The Englishmen equalled their previous best finish in the tournament. They also reached the semifinals in 1981.

Jamie Pollock, Darren Caskey, Alan Thompson and Chris Bart Williams were successful with penalty kicks for England in the shootout, while Francisco Amante, Rafael Astivia and Carlos Gonzalez netted for Mexico.

Barnsley goalkeeper David Watson clinched the victory with a brilliant save against captain Solis' penalty, Mexico's fifth.

The match was watched by a crowd of 11,047.

15-year-old stuns skating world

PRAGUE (AP) — Fifteen-year-old Oksana Baiul of Ukraine made a smashing debut to win the women's title Saturday at the World Figure Skating Cham-

pionships, her first international competition.

Crossing herself to start and finishing with a girlish clap of excitement, Baiul did five triple

jumps on the ice but it was her sassy show to a Broadway medley from "A Chorus Line" and "Cabaret" that gave her the gold.

That, and a dismal performance from American Nancy Kerrigan, the U.S. champion and Olympic bronze medalist who seemed to be hating a bad case of the nerves all week.

The United States won no medals at the World Championships, the first time since the years 1962-64 following the plane crash that killed the entire team en route to the 1961 World Championships in Prague.

Surya Bonaly, with her typically aggressive but less artistic performance, came in second among the women. China's rising star, Chen Lu, won the bronze medal for the second time a row.

Fourth went to Japan's Yuka Sato, and fifth to Kerrigan.

Baiul has all the toughest jumps — although she says she plans to add more — but it is her coltish energy, her bounces, humps and wiggles to the music that makes the audience hers.

She makes them wait, however, before she starts, after her name is announced and the crowd quiets, she pauses and "listens to my skates."

She giggled as she left the rink and cried when she saw her results.

"The tear drops were God's kisses from my mother," said Baiul. Her mother, a factory worker, died two years ago and her father when she was 2.

Baiul first turned heads in January, when she placed second in the European Championships.

Kerrigan skated perhaps the most disappointing program of her career. She started by touching her hand to the ice on a triple flip and then did a single instead of a triple lutz, at which point a flash of dismay crossed her face.

Barcelona tighten grip with win over Deportivo

BARCELONA (Agencies) — Title-holders Barcelona tightened their grip on the Spanish League leadership when they beat rivals Deportivo Coruna 3-0 at Camp Nou Stadium Saturday.

The win lifted Barcelona two points clear of Real Madrid, and left Deportivo, leaders until 10 days ago, three points off the pace.

The scoreline reflected Barcelona's superiority but told nothing of a pulsating first half in which Deportivo could have had the game won in the first 25 minutes.

The visitors, revelations of the season, started with an attacking flourish which threatened to sweep Barcelona off the pitch.

Repeatedly getting behind the home defence, they created chance after chance, notably for striker Claudio Barragan. Only erratic shooting, desperate last-minute defence and the frantically extended limbs of goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta kept them out.

Deportivo smothered Barcelona's attacks in midfield and it seemed just a matter of time before their flair and energy would yield a goal.

But the break went the other way.

In the 26th minute, Barcelona's international midfielder Juan Goikoetxea picked up a ball in the centre circle and hurled forward 15 metres before hitting a 35-metre drive which swerved ferociously past the outstretched fingers of diving goalkeeper Francisco Llanos.

The goal seemed to knock the stuffing out of Deportivo, who lost their attacking verve and retreated into a defensive shell.

The killer blows came two minutes before halftime when Denmark's Michael Laudrup flicked a perfect square pass into the

path of onrushing midfielder Guillermo Amor, who hit a crashing shot just inside Llanos' near post to make it 2-0.

At the same moment, Deportivo defender Luis Lopez Rekarte protested about what appeared an off-the-ball foul by Barcelona striker Hristo Stoichkov and got his second yellow card and his marching orders.

Barcelona added to Deportivo's agony when Dutch defender Ronald Koeman converted a penalty in the 56th minute for a foul by Llanos on Aitor Beguiristain which only the referee saw.

VFB Stuttgart 1; Kaiserslautern and Dortmund played to a 0-0 draw, Hamburger SV beat Cologne 3-0 and Schalke drew with Saardrucken 2-2.

In Portugal, Benfica moved to within one point of Portuguese league leaders Porto when they drew 0-0 away to Farense.

Benfica, who meet Italy's Juventus in the UEFA Cup quarter-finals Wednesday, came closest to breaking the deadlock in the 75th minute when a header from midfielder Joao Pinto hit the bar.

Farense's Brazilian keeper Jose

EUROPEAN SOCCER

In German soccer, a penalty and free kick gave VfL Bochum a 2-0 upset of Werder Bremen Saturday, lifting Bochum out of last place, handing Bremen its second loss in four days and knocking it from second to third in the Bundesliga.

Midfielder Frank Heinemann's eighth minute penalty kick and Sven Christians' 45th-minute direct kick snapped a 13-year losing streak to Bremen at Bochum and follows Bremen's 2-1 loss to FC Barcelona Wednesday in the European Super Cup.

The loss dropped Bremen to 10-0-3, two points behind Eintracht Frankfurt and four behind league leaders Bayern Munich. Bayern retained its lead with a lackluster 0-0 draw at one time east German powerhouse Dynamo Dresden, while Frankfurt beat SG Wattenscheid 4-1 to recover from last week's loss to Munich.

Bochum improved to 3-7-11 and 13 points, one ahead of Bayer Uerdingen.

In other games, it was: Bayer Leverkusen 2, FC Nuremberg 1; Borussia Monchengladbach 3, Bayer Uerdingen 1; Karlsruhe 1,

Carlos frustrated Benfica with a number of important saves.

In Dutch soccer, Feyenoord midfielder Dean Gores scored in the final seconds to earn his side a 1-1 draw in an ill-tempered tussle of the table clash with PSV Eindhoven.

PSV's Danish defender Jan Heinze was sent off a few minutes from the end after being cautioned twice. He was one of eight men booked, six of them PSV players.

Dutch league leaders PSV looked as if they would put some daylight between themselves and second-placed Feyenoord when Romario put them ahead after only 10 minutes.

But Gores' late strike meant that goal difference still separates the two clubs.

Ajax Amsterdam benefitted from the stalemate in Rotterdam, winning 2-1 at home to RKC Waalwijk to close the gap on the leading pair to just two points.

Marciano Vink scored for Ajax in the 68th minute and RKC's Jos van Herpen helped them to victory eight minutes later with an own goal.

Lazio draw with Milan

MILAN (R) — Paul Gascoigne capped a brilliant performance with a goal as he helped lead an inspired Lazio recovery for a 2-2 draw with runaway Italian League leaders AC Milan Sunday.

Lazio stormed back from a two-goal deficit with a stirring second-half performance to clinch a draw in Rome's Olympic Stadium with an 85th-minute header from defender Cristiano Bergodi.

Lazio went close to scoring several times in the second half but could not stop Milan from stretching their unbeaten league run to 38 games and keeping intact their 11-point lead over Internazionale.

Milan's French striker Jean-Pierre Papin scored his 11th goal in 11 league games to give them a 10th-minute lead and in the 38th-minute Milan went 2-0 up when Lazio's Dutch forward Aaron Winter headed past keeper Fernando Orsi into his own net.



England opener Robin Smith on-drives off-spinner Muthiah Muralidaran to the boundary to reach his first overseas test century on the second day of the test against Sri Lanka. The wicket-keeper is Ashley de Silva (AFP photo)

England's spin nightmare continues in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (AP) — England collapsed after a good start and was all out Sunday for 300 runs, losing eight wickets to a Sri Lankan spin pair in the first innings of the one-off test.

In reply, Sri Lanka closed the second day on 140 for 1 after openers Roshan Mahanama (64) and unbeaten Chandika Hathurusinghe clobbered spin and pace alike.

The English total was far less than hoped earlier in the day when part time opener Robin Smith (120) completed his first test century outside England and shared a 122 run partnership for the fourth wicket with skipper Alec Stewart (63).

Carbajal beats Gonzalez

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Michael Carbajal weighs 40 kilograms less Saturday night, he was a giant.

And he had to be to beat Humberto Gonzalez in a seven round war that had a crowd of about 6,400 at the Hilton Center screaming themselves hoarse from the opening bell to the wild finale.

Carbajal had been knocked down twice by Gonzalez 40.3 kilos and appeared to be on the verge of losing his light flyweight title. Then, Carbajal hurt Gonzalez badly about midway through the seventh round and then knocked him out with a right and left hook to the head with one second remaining in the round.

"I wasn't worried," Carbajal said. "I was confident. I got knocked down twice but I knew he couldn't knock me out."

"I'm a real champion. I get up. I knock him down."

Carbajal not only kept his 18F share of the 40.6 kilo (100 pound) title. He also won the WBC championships.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSH
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BRUSHED ASIDE

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 10 9 5 2
♥ A 8 6 4
♦ A
♣ Q 10 2

EAST
♠ J 6 3
♥ 7 K Q 10 9
♦ Q 9 7 4 3
♣ K 9 6

SOUTH
♠ K 7
♥ J 7 3
♦ J 10 2
♣ A J 8 7 4

The bidding:
South West North East
Pass Pass 1* Pass
2* Pass 3* Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♣

For the most part, your opponents will play honest cards. Once in a while, however, a defender will come up with a clever falsecard and fool you completely. In that case, all you can do is doff your hat to a worthy adversary.

Opposite a passed partner, North's raise to three clubs was a tactical ploy to stifle competition.

This was a relatively safe maneuver — as a passed hand South had to have a long club suit for the two-over-one response, since North was under no obligation to bid again.

South could see no game and passed.

West led the five of hearts, ducked to East's queen. Declarer followed low on the club return.

West won the king and reverted to a heart. Declarer rose with the ace and led a spade to the king, which held! A spade back was again ducked smoothly by West and the time lost to the jack. East cashed the king of hearts and continued the suit.

Declarer ruffed high and drew two rounds of trumps, ending in dummy. Convinced by the picture West drew by withholding the ace of spades twice, declarer placed East with that card. So the queen of spades was led for a ruffing finesse, and run when East followed low. Down one.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY MARCH 15, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Forget all the petty details and please others with the breadth of your viewpoint about whatever arises as you enjoy the double, good aspect of Mercury trine Mars and Sun trine Pluto with the Moon in organising Capricorn.

work that is good for you but it is advisable to make a big success of it that are better known of all the angles of such a project.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A very good day to carry through with whatever promises you have made to anyone else whether they be of a personal or public commitment.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can look horns and have a difficult time with a sub-born associate you can act in a conciliatory manner and come to a new agreement.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You find you achieve a great deal of value if you don't go running off to some outside appeals but stick to the activities at hand.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have the chance to have some very good times now but make sure that you know the exact cost and get congenial playmates to go along with you.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) There are some needs at your residence that you have put off doing that you now can arrange to attend to with persistence and steadfastness for best results.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Whatever desk work or similar duties facing you can be done in a highly efficient manner now as well, as essential shopping and errands that must be done.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Today is good for getting into statements, reports, documents financial activities and to work them out so you have a greater abundance in the future.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Take a good look at yourself in the mirror and visit the beauty salon or barber shop of your choice and get yourself in perfect condition.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Whatever private concerns you have can now be taken up from a very materialistic angle and solved in such a way that you have them in a fine fashion.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Forget any slight or difficult situations of a personal nature and put into motion a plan of action for bringing material pleasures to yourselves.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Get into the nitty gritty of your outside interests now and show you are the one who understands all phases of them and can make them work well.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You have new plan you want to

THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen



"When you kiss me curl your top lip an extra 25 degrees. I like everything to be perfect."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TEELA
WOGIN
ANGLAR
RECRON

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: THE

Yesterday's Jumbles: FEINT PRONE RANCID INDUCE

Answer: What the pressman's wife wore to the party — A PRINT

THE Daily Crossword

by Richard Thomas

ACROSS
1 Sit
5 Machu Picchu
9 — twang
14 Full-grown
15 Central line
16 Matress
17 Motion
18 Flank
19 Tasteless
20 Government agency
24 Equine gait
26 Posa
27 Of the cheek
29 Runners
31 Entrance exam letters
32 Two and three ends
33 Converse
34 Melon
35 Broadway hit
38 Jug handles
39 Term
40 Suspicious
41 Person or Galbar
42 Beach warriors
43 Light-headed
44 Mended anew
45 Muro's
46 Dictionary
47 60's game show
48 Interweave
49 80's sitcom
50 Unexplained
51 Harbinger
52 Nudnik
53 Job opening
54 Ethnic group

DOWN
1 Artist Juan
2 Extraordinary
3 abbr.
4 Unleashed
5 Harbinger
6 Be
7 Joy or hay
8 Addict
9 Fleet and armade
10 Maria hemp
11 Flapjacks
12 "Do — say, not..."
13 Guided
14 Exports
15 In competition
16 Table linen
17 See 40
18 Cat desert
19 Some Oriental
20 Casts off
21 Predatory bird
22 Control the tiller
23 Manager
24 Seer
25 36 TV's Corrie
26 Similar
27 Sarcasm
28 Edberg
29 Joint sealer
30 Quist
31 Volley
32 Night flier
33 Follow
34 Vishnu
35 Incarnation
36 Part of CEO: abbr.
37 Branch of artiller
38 Cork
39 Feel remorse

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



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COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK	20,423	131.000	131.000	131.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	20,150	1.750	1.750	1.750
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	20,250	26.300	26.300	26.300
THE HOUSING BANK	16,221	1.750	1.750	1.750
JORDAN POSTAL BANK	11,359	3.750	3.750	3.750
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	22,426	2.580	2.580	2.520
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	2,558	4.450	4.450	4.450
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	1,295	4.570	4.570	4.450
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1,522	2.960	2.960	4.010
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	4,460	1.100	1.100	1.100
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	2,975	5.900	5.900	5.900
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	551	5.400	5.400	5.400
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	22,980	1.740	1.750	1.750
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1,157	3.270	3.360	3.250
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	720	2.600	2.650	2.650
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	2,972	2.650	2.650	2.650
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	11,220	3.250	3.250	3.270
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	488	3.300	3.250	3.250
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	930	2.600	2.650	2.650
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	783	3.300	3.330	3.330
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	65,100	1.750	1.750	1.770
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	24,771	1.100	1.100	1.100
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	2,040	1.710	1.700	1.700
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	4,825	1.450	1.450	1.450
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1,378	1.450	1.450	1.450
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1,050	10.100	10.100	10.100
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	126,821	2.410	2.420	2.440
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1,570	1.010	1.140	1.140
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	11,900	2.360	2.380	2.380
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	14,731	1.880	1.860	1.860
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	14,502	10.000	9.950	9.970
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1,970	1.010	1.140	1.140
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	30,544	6.040	6.100	5.950
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	11,544	9.700	9.750	9.750
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	84,024	6.870	6.900	6.900
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	28,755	6.030	5.950	5.950
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	8,960	0.010	0.010	0.010
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	34,847	4.150	4.160	4.160
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	14,928	14.300	14.300	14.300
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	396	1.250	1.250	1.250
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	234,322	6.400	6.400	6.400
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	79,274	4.520	4.510	4.520
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	79,274	1.840	1.850	1.850
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	605,390	5.300	5.300	5.300
GRAND TOTAL				1,591,626

NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET : 22650
TRADING VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET : 1.20 20974

Sudan decrees merger of leading state banks

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's military government has decreed the merger of a number of leading state-owned banks, apparently to cut costs and raise efficiency.

The official news agency, SUNA, reported Sunday that a military government decree brought the Unity Bank and the National Imports and Exports Bank under the Bank of Khartoum, Sudan's largest with more than 70 branches.

The merged entity has been renamed, the Bank of Khartoum Group, headed by Sabir Mohamed Al Hassan, general manager of the Bank of Khartoum.

The disappearing Unity Bank is the only bank with branches in most parts of the rebellious and war-ravaged southern Sudan. The National Imports and Exports Bank has usually been responsible for handling Sudan's external trade transactions.

Also merged were the Industrial Development Bank and Al Nilein Bank, both with massive investment in factories and industry. The enlarged bank is now called The Industrial Development Bank Group.

The Sudanese Savings Bank, the only bank with its headquarters outside Khartoum, has been merged with the Savings Fund of the Post and Telegraph Corporation to become the Sudanese Savings Bank Group.

Military ruler, General Omar Hassan Al Bashir, said the merger was in accordance with recommendations from the minister of finance and a committee for the liquidation of unprofitable public corporations.

Last element of German solidarity pact agreed

BONN (R) — Six months after Chancellor Helmut Kohl first called for a "solidarity pact" to revive Germany's faltering economy, the final element has been fitted into place.

Mr. Kohl and his political opponents put aside their differences Saturday night and agreed a plan to put the country's wobbly post-unification finances on a stable long-term footing.

The deal between the conservative Kohl, 16 regional state premiers and the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) gives extra money to east Germany and ensures that wealthy west German states will not have to foot too much of the bill.

A 7.5 per cent surcharge on income tax will be reintroduced from 1995 to help close a widening budget deficit caused by massive transfers of resources to former communist East Germany.

Mr. Kohl said he was pleased with the result and grateful to his fellow politicians for their willingness to compromise.

"I am firmly convinced that this agreement will have a positive influence on future developments," he told a news conference. "We have achieved a result that will enable us to meet the challenges facing us in eastern Germany."

The financial package completes the solidarity pact, a joint national effort by all major political and economic groups to end recession in west Germany and get lasting recovery underway in the east.

Unions have already played their part by agreeing moderate pay increases and business leaders by promising to invest more in east Germany.

The agreement will give east Germany 55.8 billion marks in aid from west Germany in 1995. Bonn will shoulder more of the burden than the western states.

In addition, east Germany will get extra money to preserve its core industries, build more housing and create more jobs.

Oman says Gulf states could use gas pipeline to India

DUBAI (R) — A proposed gas pipeline to the Indian subcontinent could be used for exports by other Gulf states if they helped finance the \$5 billion project, an Omani oil ministry source said Sunday.

Oman and India signed a memorandum of understanding Saturday to study the economic feasibility of a 1,450-kilometre (900-mile, 42-inch) underwater gas pipeline that would follow the coastline between the two countries.

"There are many decisions still to be taken, but we hope the door will be open for neighbouring countries to take part in financing and using the pipeline," one source at the Omani oil ministry in Muscat told Reuters by telephone.

He said the Omani government might finance at least 50 per cent of the project.

Under the agreement, Oman is also to build two refineries in India for Omani crude oil.

The source said the amount of gas pumped would depend on India's needs.

The magazine Middle East Economic Digest reported recently that the proposed line would carry 50 million cubic metres (1.8 billion cubic feet) of gas a day.

The source said Oman had increased its figure of proven gas reserves to 560 billion cubic metres (20 trillion cubic feet) of proven gas reserves after new discoveries were made.

"The pipeline would provide an opportunity for Oman to export some of the gas," he added.

Oil Minister Saud Bin Ahmad Al Shabari said to November Oman's proven gas reserves had risen from 252 billion cubic metres (nine trillion cubic feet) to 476 billion cubic metres (17 trillion cubic feet) in the last two years.

Fifty million cubic metres a day, if that is the rate at which the gas would flow to India, would exploit those reserves at the rate of 18.7 billion cubic metres (643 billion cubic feet) a year.

U.S., European energy tax plans anger Arabs

JEDDAH (R) — Gulf Arabs who control almost half the world's oil reserves have reacted angrily to U.S. and European plans for energy taxes, saying they would act against those who imposed such taxes and may curb oil supplies.

The oil minister of Bahrain, Youssef Shiraw, said after a meeting of Gulf oil ministers that ended early Sunday that the six states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) would cut production and abandon expensive oil development plans.

"If this tax is imposed, Gulf Cooperation Council states will curb oil exports and development of production facilities," he said in remarks quoted by his country's Gulf News Agency.

The comments by the Bahraini minister are the first public signal that exporters may cut oil production further after last month's OPEC deal for output cuts.

The OPEC curbs have been unusually effective despite a previous history of cheating among OPEC producers. They have reversed a price decline that cost producers up to 15 per cent in revenues.

"It is early days and they have yet to agree details of how to react but the energy taxes seem to have brought unusual unity to OPEC," one Gulf-based oil executive said.

"They are effectively warning that they could allow prices to climb sharply if their interests are really threatened," he added.

"This would not be good news at a time when Western economies are trying to pull out of recession."

The ministers from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates, meeting in the Saudi city of Jeddah, issued a strongly worded statement denouncing the proposed taxes as discriminatory.

Oil was already heavily taxed in the industrialised states of the West while coal and nuclear power, which pose a greater threat to the environment, remained protected, they said.

The statement, which did not specify what measures would be taken, said the ministers "asserted their determination to protect their oil interests and the continued flow of that basic commodity without any restrictions."

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Ali Al-Baghl called for duties on imports from countries that impose such taxes — making it more difficult for them to export to the lucrative but highly competitive Gulf markets.

The Gulf ministers' comments are part of an oil exporters' blitz against an energy tax proposed by new U.S. President Bill Clinton as part of his efforts to plug the U.S. budget gap.

The taxes are popular among environmentalists who favour curbs on burning of gasoline, partly blamed for global warming.

The Gulf states are even more concerned that the Clinton tax would have the way for a carbon tax the European Community is considering. This would add \$10 to the price of a barrel of imported oil within a decade.

While the United States, a large oil producer itself, accounts for only one of each seven barrels of oil exported by the Gulf states, the EC, like Japan, accounts for two barrels.

OPEC President Alior Parra has said energy taxes will be the main talking point at a meeting in Muscat on April 13 of 32 oil ministers — independent exporters plus all 13 OPEC states.

Kuwait, especially since a U.S.-led alliance liberated it from Iraqi occupation two years ago, had actively favoured the U.S. and European parties in trade and reconstruction deals.

Gulf oil sources said the fact that even Kuwait was angry amplified demonstrated the depth of emotion against the taxes.

Diplomats said Gulf Arabs feel betrayed.

Saudi Arabia especially believes it has gone out of its way since the oil price explosion of the mid-1970s to keep the lid on oil price increases.

At a time of relatively low oil prices, Gulf Arabs are particularly sore because they face massive budget deficits while having to spend billions of dollars on plans to expand oil production capacity.

The package mixed cuts in some areas of government spending with extra spending on salaries and on food subsidies.

Yemen's budget deficit is about 20 billion riyals (\$1.67 billion) a year and inflation is about 100 per cent a year. Economists say unemployment is also running high.

Yemen lost \$1.4 billion in annual remittances from a million Yemenis expelled from Gulf states when Sanaa showed support for Iraq in the 1990-91 Gulf crisis over Kuwait. The rich oil states also stopped vital financial aid to Yemen.

Some bankers refused to discuss the reasons behind the liquidity crisis, but others said it was partly because the government had so far failed to act on economic measures it decided to take after widespread food riots in December.

The government had approved a wide-ranging economic package designed to prevent a repetition of price riots in which 12 people were killed and 90 injured.

Financial Markets

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (March 8 — March 12, 1993)

AMMAN — Last week saw currency exchange rates fluctuate within a very narrow range, on lack of new price-moving news. At the end of the week, the U.S. unit was 0.3 per cent lower against the mark and 1.7 per cent lower against the Swiss franc. It was, however, 0.94 per cent higher against the pound, and 0.4 per cent higher against the yen.

The dollar eased back slightly against the mark Monday in quiet slow trading. After it's sharp rally the previous Friday, traders took profit on the U.S. unit, disappointed by its failure to carry on its rally. Reports said that the market was characterised by a lack of "intraday" direction, due to the absence of new fresh news, a case that prevailed for most of the week. Trading, hence, remained range bound, motivated by technical factors, and activity became mainly confined to inter-bank activity, as investors stayed on the sidelines.

But at the end of the week, ERM tensions escalated again as news that the vice-governor of the Portuguese central bank resigned, intensified pressure on the Escudo, forcing the Portuguese central bank along with other European central banks to intervene to defend their respective currencies. Investors sought the mark as a safe-haven currency from the turmoil of the ERM, causing the German unit to rise against the weaker European currencies of the system, reflecting, in turn, positively against the U.S. currency.

Meanwhile, analysts commented that investors have been less inclined, lately, to see political turmoil in Russia as having a direct influence over the German economy and currency. Nevertheless, the dollar rebounded later in the day helped by the on-going political crisis in Russia, as traders preferred to be long-dollars during the weekend, in case further developments materialised.

As for this week, market focus will be on the Bundesbank's council meeting on March 18th, as many traders expect an interest rate cut announcement to follow. But some analysts thought that the German central bank might actually cut interest rates early in the week to take the market by surprise, if history is anything to go by!

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	5/3/93	12/3/93	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.4460	1.4324	0.94%
Deutsche Mark	1.6693	1.6650	0.26%
Swiss Franc	1.5458	1.5200	1.70%
French Franc	5.6555	5.6580	0.04%
Japanese Yen	117.62	118.07	0.38%

USD Per STD.

Inter-Currency Interest Rates

Currency	5/3/1993	12/3/1993
U.S. Dollar	3.18	3.50
Sterling Pound	6.13	5.56
Deutsche Mark	6.25	6.75
Swiss Franc	5.25	4.37
French Franc	11.57	9.18
Japanese Yen	3.37	3.09

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6920	0.6940
Sterling Pound	0.9889	0.9938
Deutsche Mark	0.4146	0.4169
Swiss Franc	0.4546	0.4569
French Franc	0.1222	0.1228
Japanese Yen	0.5850	0.5879
Dutch Guilder	0.3695	0.3713
Swedish Krona	0.0887	0.0891
Italian Lira	0.0430	0.0432
Belgian Franc	0.02017	0.02027

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Zawwad Wild Awwad Party

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Kevin Costner and Whitney Houston
BODYGUARD
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RENEGADES
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Yeltsin ponders his future moves

Rivals demand resignation, backers collect signatures

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin retreated to the country to lick his wounds Sunday after a fierce battle with his supreme legislature which is threatening to divide Russia.

"Nothing is planned for today. The president is out of Moscow at his dacha," spokesman Anatoly Krasikov said.

Informed sources said it was likely Mr. Yeltsin would make a televised statement Monday.

The Russian leader is mired in deep political trouble after conservatives won a series of victories at an emergency session of the legislature, the Congress of People's Deputies, which paved the way for his powers to be curbed.

Mr. Yeltsin held a long strategy meeting with key aides Saturday night, but Mr. Krasikov declined to comment on the outcome.

The Congress, led by Mr. Yeltsin's arch-rival Ruslan Khasbulatov, ended a stormy debate Saturday which appeared to give parliament the upper hand in the struggle over who rules Russia.

Mr. Yeltsin, who escaped with his powers intact but his defences weakened, was denied the right to hold a referendum and accused of stirring confrontation.

He plans to hold a nationwide opinion poll on who should rule the country although it will have no legal validity. He can also try to impose emergency rule.

Both conservatives and liberals are starting to warn that Russia could be heading for civil war.

ITAR-TASS New Agency said several hundred demonstrators in the Siberian city of Irkutsk took

to the street Sunday to demand Mr. Yeltsin's resignation while supporters of the Russian leader began collecting signatures in favour of a referendum.

Both sides need the support of Russia's increasingly impatient regions if they are to triumph.

The head of the local administration in the giant Siberian region of Krasnoyarsk Sunday said it was obvious the Congress was incapable of solving serious questions.

"I get the impression that no one today knows which path our society should take," TASS quoted Vyacheslav Novikov as saying.

The dispute threatens the future of the government's radical but unpopular economic reforms.

"People might not be able to stand the shock of a sudden transformation but adopting a gradual approach to the market is like slowly pulling out a painful tooth," Mr. Novikov said.

The Congress, dominated by conservatives elected before the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, stripped Mr. Yeltsin of one weapon after the other but left some of the more controversial decisions to the smaller Supreme Soviet, or standing parliament.

These include proposals to place major media organisations under the control of parliament and a decision on whether to hold early presidential and parliamentary elections.

After rejecting Mr. Yeltsin's proposals for a power-sharing deal and scrapping a previous accord that effectively gave the

president immunity from attempts to trim his authority, Congress rounded off its session by cancelling the planned referendum.

"The Congress does not ignore the people's opinion but strives to defend it from political adventurism, from chaos and from the tragedy of the collapse of Russia," deputies said in an appeal at the end of the session.

A jubilant Khasbulatov said the new Congress would take place no later than June "that is if the Supreme Soviet is not persecuted" — an implicit warning that it would reconvene earlier if Mr. Yeltsin retaliated.

Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev Sunday cancelled a planned live interview with the U.S. television news network NBC after a last minute change of plans.

An NBC correspondent said the network had been told that Mr. Kozyrev had scrapped all his appointments for the day and was currently somewhere outside Moscow at a meeting. The foreign ministry declined to comment.

Meanwhile U.S. President Bill Clinton said Saturday Mr. Yeltsin represents a "passionate commitment to democracy" and deserves the full support of the United States.

"I don't think we ever predicted an easy ride for democracy and a free market" in the aftermath of the collapse of the Soviet Union, Mr. Clinton told a group of Connecticut reporters at the White House.

Mr. Yeltsin is embroiled in a

power struggle with his country's conservative parliament.

Mr. Clinton said there is no way of predicting the outcome of events in Russia's tumultuous political climate.

But, reiterating previous statements of support for Mr. Yeltsin, Mr. Clinton said: "As far as I'm concerned he's the only person who has been elected president of Russia...and I'm going to do what I can to be of support."

"We should support him because he has been elected after all, and he represents a passionate commitment to democracy," the president said. "So I'm trying to do what I can to marshal support."

Mr. Clinton said he is encouraged by the cooperative attitude of President Francois Mitterrand of France in that effort.

And he said he hopes the seven major industrialised nations will forge "a more coordinated and cooperative approach" to aiding Russia and the republics that constituted the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Yeltsin are scheduled to meet in Vancouver, Canada, on April 3-4.

Mr. Clinton has expressed interest in mobilising the group of seven nations to help Russia in advance of their long scheduled meeting in Tokyo next July.

"The United States has an interest in a Russia that is not hostile to us, that is not a military enemy," he said. "There are many democrats committed to reform and I want to be working with them."



Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao (third from right) tours the bomb-devastated Air India building one day after a series of explosions rocked Bombay killing over 200 people (AFP photo)

Police find unexploded bomb in Bombay

BOMBAY (Agencies) — Police Sunday found an unexploded bomb near a railway station in central Bombay, two days after series of blasts tore through India's commercial capital killing at least 250 people, a spokesman said.

The spokesman said the bomb was discovered tied on a motorbike in a lane outside Dadar Railway Station. Police, who cordoned off the area and ordered all nearby buildings evacuated, said the bomb may have been left over from Friday's wave of attacks.

India Sunday called for international help in identifying those responsible for the bomb blasts in Bombay after investigators said the trail pointed abroad, possibly toward old enemy Pakistan.

A spokesman for India's Central Bureau of Investigation said assistance had been sought from Interpol, but declined to specify what sort of help had been asked for.

United News of India news agency said the government had also asked for help from the United States, Britain and some West Asian (Middle East) nations.

Friday's 13 devastating bomb blasts in Bombay bear some resemblance to the explosion at the World Trade Centre in New York on Feb. 26, in which five people were killed and at least 1,000

injured.

Two people have been charged with the New York bombing. Indian police say there is unlikely to be a direct connection, except possibly in the type of explosive used.

Earlier Sunday, investigators told Reuters that although there were no definite clues, the trail pointed overseas.

A senior police officer who is involved in the investigations said the well-coordinated operation had the hallmarks of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Agency.

"The ISI is at the back of it," he said.

Because of the intensity of the blasts and the type of plastic explosives used, other officials have speculated about a possible link with Sri Lanka Tamil Tiger guerrillas who assassinated former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991.

The Tigers are the only group in the region known to have perfected car bomb attacks using high-intensity explosives. Most of the explosions in Bombay were caused by car bombs.

But a spokesman for the Tigers denied that his group was responsible.

"We are not responsible for the blasts. We are not involved," the spokesman said in a telephone call from Paris to the Colombo bureau of Reuters.

Police in Bombay say other

possible suspects include Kashmiri and Middle Eastern extremist groups.

Indian Home Minister S.B. Chavan told reporters that explosives for the bombing campaign were brought into India from outside, but gave no details.

Meanwhile businesses closed in several towns in Kashmir Sunday to protest the killing of five top Muslim militants by security forces.

Witnesses and police have offered conflicting versions of events. In one instance, witnesses said security forces gunned down the chief and a top leader of Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen after dragging them from a motor scooter in downtown Srinagar Saturday, witnesses said.

Police, however, said Nasir Ul Islam, head of the group, and Abdul Hameed, the group's financial controller, were shot after they fired at the troops.

In another incident Sunday, troops shot and killed three militants of the Harkat-ul-Mujahideen in a kitchen after interrogating them, witnesses said. Police said the militants first fired at troops and were killed when soldiers shot back.

In Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu-Kashmir state, merchants shut down shops and vehicles stayed off the road to protest police refusal to hand over two bodies to anyone but relatives.

Keating's win boosts moves towards republic

SYDNEY (R) — Labour Prime Minister Paul Keating's surprise election victory has cleared the way for Australia to remove Britain's Queen Elizabeth as head of state and become a republic, a newspaper said Sunday.

While never a major election issue, a constitutional change was cited by the Sunday Telegraph as the eventual outcome of the solid win by Mr. Keating, an avowed republican.

Dejected opposition leader John Hewson meanwhile abandoned key policies — which he had trumpeted as essential for Australia — after suffering a crushing defeat.

His face stony and voice at times shaky, Mr. Hewson said his Liberal-National conservative coalition would review policies which only a day earlier he had fervently promoted. He pledged to stay as opposition leader.

The former economics professor conceded his plan to replace six indirect taxes with a 15 per cent goods and services tax (GST), which he had said was essential to make Australia competitive, had been unpopular.

"If anything this election was a referendum... on the GST and... the people of Australia have spoken," Mr. Hewson told reporters. "They don't want it and so it will go."

By Sunday night, Labour appeared to have clinched 77 seats in the 147-member lower house, equalling its previous standing, after drawing a uniform swing in its favour of 1.98 per cent.

Five seats remained doubtful. Two of them may fall to Labour.

A relaxed Keating, his Dutch-born wife Annita and three daughters, posed for photographers at the prime ministerial harbour-front Sydney residence a day after defying political gravity and triumphing in a poll widely thought unwinnable.

The re-election of Mr. Keating "has guaranteed that the nation is on the way to becoming the Federal Republic of Australia under a new flag," the Sunday Telegraph said.

"The break is from constitutional monarchy is almost certain to see Elizabeth II as the last queen of Australia," it added.

"The move will likely see the governor-general (the queen's representative) replaced by a president."

Since replacing former Prime Minister Bob Hawke in a party room challenge 14 months ago, Mr. Keating has pledged to set up a panel of eminent Australians to study how the country could become a republic, with an Australian head of state, by 2001.

This would coincide with the centenary of Australia's conversion from a group of colonies to a federation of states.

Mr. Keating has also supported a change of the Australian flag, a blue ensign which depicts the southern cross constellation and, in the top left-hand corner, the British Union Jack.

Final French poll points to big conservative win

PARIS (R) — The final opinion poll before next week's French parliamentary elections, published Sunday, shows the centre-right opposition is heading for a crushing victory over the ruling Socialists.

The IFOP survey in the newspaper Journal Du Dimanche echoed trends throughout the campaign that the centre-right alliance Union for France (UPF) would win roughly double the Socialist vote and up to four times as many seats.

One-third of voters would choose protest groups such as the Ecologists, the Communists or the National Front, it added.

"Everything suggests the election campaign has washed over the electorate like water over duck feathers," the newspaper Liberation said. "Voting intentions have barely registered any significant change since the beginning of the year."

The IFOP poll gave the UPF 42 per cent and the Socialists, with their moderate left-wing allies, 20.5 per cent. A joint Ecologist list had 14.5 per cent, the far-right National Front 10.5 per cent and the Communists 9.5 per cent.

That meant the UPF could expect between 409 and 449 seats

in the 577-seat National Assembly, with the Socialists winning 90 to 109, the Communists 18 to 28 and the Ecologists and National Front less than five each, IFOP said.

What the polls can not easily show is how voting patterns will change between the first round next Sunday and the second a week later, when runoff contests will be held in constituencies where no candidate has a clear majority.

Many political commentators believe the race could narrow significantly in that week and an excessively large majority could highlight disunity in the centre-right.

"The opposition thinks it is already in power and is laying bare its contradictions," outgoing Prime Minister Pierre Berengovoy said in an interview with the Journal Du Dimanche.

"I think there will be a swing back, especially between the two rounds."

In a campaign with little drama, attention has focused on how the new government will manage to share power with Socialist President Francois Mitterrand, whose term runs until 1995.

Pretoria, ANC stress need to prevent civil war

KYALAMI, South Africa (R) — South Africa's top government negotiator Roelf Meyer and his African National Congress (ANC) counterpart Cyril Ramaphosa said Sunday it was vital to prevent civil war breaking out in South Africa.

"It is most important to avoid the possibility of civil war here," Mr. Meyer told a news conference at the Kyalami Race Track, north of Johannesburg, where he and Mr. Ramaphosa were to present South Africa's Formula 1 Grand Prix motor racing awards.

"All relevant political groups to the constitutional negotiations agree on the need to ensure that peace prevails," Mr. Meyer said.

Mr. Ramaphosa, the ANC's secretary general and top negotiator in constitutional talks with the government, said the social fabric of South Africa was falling apart. But he thought civil war was avoidable.

"We have one of the highest rates of unemployment, with seven million people out of work. The crime rate is rocketing. The (violence) death rate has become unspeakable. The economy is in the doldrums."

"We must proceed with all speed to our first elections for the new South Africa," he said.

Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi has warned negotiators that the country risks civil war unless an acceptable deal is hammered out for a post-apartheid society.

U.S. east coast blizzards, tornadoes claim 40 lives

NEW YORK (R) — One of the worst winter storms this century lashed the east coast of the United States Sunday, killing up to 40 people and leaving millions without electricity.

The storm roared up the coast from Florida, bringing mass evacuations along the flood-hit Atlantic seaboard, tornadoes in the south and winds that gusted at over 160 kilometres per hour.

Authorities said at least 18 people died. Local radio reports said there may have been as many as 40 storm-related deaths over the past two days but the higher toll could not be immediately confirmed.

In Manhattan, winds gusting to 120 kilometres per hour rattled skyscrapers Saturday, popping out windows in a midtown office building and virtually paralysing transport along many of the city's streets and bridges.

Meteorologists said the storm, which struck just a week before the start of spring and dumped as much as three feet (a metre) of snow on some areas, was similar to a summer hurricane with its extremely low atmospheric pressure.

Governors of 12 states declared emergencies as the storm barreled northward from the Gulf of Mexico, where it had developed.

At 0900 GMT, it was centred just north of New York City, and was dumping as much as four inches (10 cm) of snow an hour in some areas of New England where two to three feet had already been reported.

Officials in New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts evacuated residents from low-lying areas. Weather forecasters said beaches faced further erosion after being battered by severe storms earlier in the winter.

Emergency shelters were opened throughout the region but

workers said many people were having trouble getting to them.

And many urban homeless were seeking refuge in underground stations, bus depots and wherever a dry spot could be found.

"Florida is going to be major," said David Rodham, director of Massachusetts' Emergency Management Agency. "It's going to be worse than the blizzard of '78."

The February 1978 storm was the worst in most Bostonians' memories for its four feet (1.2 m) plus of snow and the abandoned cars on highways around Boston. Eastern Massachusetts was virtually shut down for almost a week.

New York City dispatched 1,700 snowploughs to deal with the storm but officials said side streets would remain unploughed until later in the day.

New York area airports were closed Saturday and were not expected to reopen before midday Sunday, leaving thousands waiting at terminals.

The storm wreaked havoc in the south as it passed through Birmingham, Alabama, which has no snowploughs got 13 inches (33 cm) of snow. And Chattanooga, Tennessee, another city that seldom sees snow, reported 21 inches.

About two million people were left without power in Florida, where the storm touched off some 50 tornadoes or "twisters" which caused at least 14 deaths, Florida officials said.

A 36-year-old woman died when a tornado swept through her mobile home. She and her husband had moved to a government-sponsored trailer park south of Miami after hurricane Andrew destroyed their home last August.

China confirms president to step down

PEKING (R) — Chinese President Yang Shangkun will step down after a parliament meeting that opens Monday, the Peking Review reported Sunday.

It was the first official confirmation that the 65-year-old president will go. He is widely expected to be replaced by Jiang Zemin, who will hold the job concurrently with his position as general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party.

The magazine also confirmed that Wan Li, chairman of China's parliament, the National People's Congress (NPC), will relinquish his post.

Both Mr. Yang and Mr. Wan stepped down from their Communist Party posts at the party's 14th Congress last October.

Diplomats believe they are being retired mainly for reasons of age and to indicate a clear generational break from the long march veterans who have dominated Chinese politics since the 1949 Communist revolution.

Xinhua News Agency indirectly

confirmed widely believed reports that Qiao Shi, who until recently had responsibility for all of China's security apparatus, would replace Mr. Wan during the parliamentary session.

It reported that Mr. Qiao took over the leadership of the parliament's presidium from Mr. Wan halfway through Sunday's meeting of the decision-making body.

Li Peng, the premier, is almost certain to be named to a new five-year term.

In addition to electing new state leaders, the 17-day NPC meeting will amend the constitution and pass a new budget, a spokesman announced Sunday.

The parliament's work will focus on pushing forward the economic reform policies of 88-year-old paramount leader Deng Xiaoping. NPC spokesman Zhou Jue told a news conference.

Mr. Deng, a delegate to the parliament elected by the military, was elected to the NPC's presidium, but Mr. Zhou declined to say if the senior leader

would appear at the sessions.

"Comrade Deng Xiaoping is an outstanding leader who is held in great respect and high regard," he said. "But as for whether he will attend or not, you will find this out when the session is convened."

Mr. Zhou made clear that the administrative tinkering China touts as political reform will not bring any significant changes to the absolute power of the Communist Party.

"We will not implement a multi-party system or a Western-style parliamentary system," he said.

But he emphasised that China was moving towards a system of laws, saying: "We have changed the previous situation where there were no laws or regulations to abide by."

A senior economic official predicted that the parliamentary session would help speed China's progress towards price reform.

El Salvador war crimes report to name culprits

SAN SALVADOR (R) — A U.N. report on war crimes in El Salvador will name the military chiefs, rebel leaders and wealthy businessmen responsible for human rights atrocities, diplomatic sources said.

They said the report is expected to push several top army officers into resigning and could tilt the balance of power as El Salvador approaches key democratic elections after two decades of political violence.

The United Nations-appointed "truth commission" will set the record straight on the army massacres, rebel assassinations and thousands of death-squad murders that brought this tiny Central American nation to the world's attention.

"Salvadorans will only put the past behind them when the truth has been brought to light," U.N. Secretary-General Joutros Ghalil said last December at a ceremony marking the formal end to a conflict that killed 75,000 people.

Tension has risen in recent days and Defence Minister General Rene Emilio Ponce offered his resignation Friday, angrily condemning what he said was an international campaign to destroy the armed forces.

The truth commission is expected to conclude that Gen. Ponce was involved in covering up, or even ordering, the army's slaying of six Jesuit priests in

November 1989.

Few doubt the commission will name several other army chiefs already under intense pressure to resign.

A civilian panel set up by last year's peace treaty listed 102 abusive and corrupt military officers for discharge or removal from command positions, but President Alfredo Cristiani sent seven to diplomatic posts abroad and kept eight more, including Gen. Ponce, in their posts.

Dr. Ghalil said Mr. Cristiani's move was unacceptable and the new U.S. administration of President Bill Clinton has led a diplomatic offensive for full compliance with the proposed military purge.

Diplomatic sources said those military officers who dodged the clean-up and remain in top command positions may find their position untenable once the commission's report is released.

Led by former Colombian President Belisario Betancur, the commission was formed under the U.N.-mediated peace accords. It took testimony from about 9,000 civilian victims or witnesses of rights abuses, questioned top U.S. officials and interviewed dozens of people implicated in rights abuses.

Right-wing politicians have questioned the commission's independence and authority while

Mr. Cristiani repeatedly tried to delay the report's publication by up to five years, arguing that "extremist elements" would use it for political gain.

Mr. Cristiani decided not to attend Monday's formal ceremony in New York where government and rebel representatives will each receive a copy of the mammoth report.

The war crimes investigation include the Jesuit murders, the assassination of former Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero in 1980 and a series of army massacres against civilians.

Rebel leaders will be cited for slaying elected mayors, murdering right-wing politicians, carrying out indiscriminate attacks and killing four U.S. Marines and two U.S. businessmen at a San Salvador cafe in 1985.

The report is also expected to affect El Salvador's ruling right-wing ARENA Party by detailing how prominent businessmen and politicians financed and helped run the death-squads that killed thousands of civilians in the early 1980s.

With presidential and legislative polls set for early 1994, diplomats say the truth commission's revelations could hurt ARENA's electoral prospects.

Meanwhile dozens of former leftist guerrillas and paramilitary police, enemies throughout El Salvador's civil war, were de-

ployed Saturday as part of a civilian police force set up under U.N.-brokered peace accords.

They were among more than 400 men and women deployed in the northern war-torn Department of Chalatenango, officials said. It was the first deployment of National Civilian Police (PNC) agents since the force was created last year.

The PNC is to steadily replace the three army-controlled security forces accused of serious human rights violations before and during the 12-year civil war that killed 75,000 people before peace accords signed in January 1992.

The Treasury Police and the National Guard were dissolved last year and the National Police is to be phased out over the next two years as the PNC takes control across the country.

About 20 per cent of the PNC agents will be former rebels of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) and another 20 per cent will come from the ranks of the National Police.

The PNC's formation and training has been backed primarily by Spain and the United States. It is to be first deployed across the zones hardest hit during the civil war. PNC agents will carry handguns rather than the M-16 assault rifles currently used by the National Police.

COLUMN

85 per cent of unwed pregnancies aborted in S. Korea

SEOUL (R) — Nearly nine out of 10 of single pregnant women in South Korea have illegal abortions rather than give birth, a new survey suggests. Some 85 per cent of 1,514 unwed mothers-to-be aged between 18 and 34 said that they had had an abortion, the survey, conducted by the state-run Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs, says. Only 3.4 per cent of those polled said they had given birth. The others did not respond. The results of the survey were announced in the Korea Herald Sunday. According to the survey, all the women polled who were also college graduates had chosen to undergo abortions. "Most of the unmarried women who chose to bear children after discovering that they were pregnant lived apart from their parents and suffered economic difficulties in rearing their babies," said the Herald, quoting an institute spokesman. Abortion is illegal in South Korea except in cases where doctors consider birth to be life-threatening. The government has begun to realise that sex education is one of the most pressing tasks facing the country's younger generation, analysts say. A century ago, social taboos were so strong that many women would sooner hang themselves than become unwed mothers.

On Great White Way, show goes on despite the snowstorm

NEW YORK (R) — Despite the worst winter storm of the century, the show went on Broadway and theatres said business was better than expected. Needless to say, the Great White Way really looked like a Great White Way. "It's crazy, I don't know where they're coming from," said John Mitchell, ticket taker at "Cats," one of Broadway's most durable attractions. He said the house was about 70 per cent full. "Better than normal." At Miss Saigon, one of the hottest tickets in town, more than 50 people were in line at showtime looking for cancellations. Many were out-of-towners trapped in the city after the region's airports were closed before noon. "We came in and asked, 'anybody not driving in?'" said a Detroit man who got a ticket. And the storm did not deter bargain-hunting. At the TKTS booth in Times Square, where tickets are sold for that day's performance at half-price, business was better than expected. Ticket agent Richard Cipolla said that buyers were lined up down the block even at the height of the driving snow. "Business was off, but the fact that there's a blizzard in town, it's amazing that anyone came," he said.

Principal suspended over bullying death at school

TOKYO (AP) — A local Board of Education has said it has suspended a principal for 20 days for failing to stop the harassment of a 13-year-old boy who later was bullied to death. The case of seventh-grader Yuhei Kodama, who was found dead on Jan. 13, refocused national attention on the problem of school bullying in Japan's highly conformist society. Noriaki Mine, principal of Meirin Junior High School, was suspended through March 29, said the prefectural Board of Education in Yamagata, northern Japan. Kodama suffocated after being wrapped upside down in a gym mat. He had been picked on because he refused to sing and dance like a well-known folk-tale character. Student witnesses interviewed on television said they often saw schoolmates harassing the boy. Japan has attained nearly 100 per cent literacy, and Japanese children consistently score higher on achievement tests than do American counterparts. But the rigid school system is criticised for allowing frequent physical punishment and bullying of students by their peers.

Russian prostitutes accept privatisation vouchers

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's privatisation voucher seems destined for success — prostitutes in the city of Perm have begun accepting them as payment. An hour with a "lady of the night" costs one voucher — current market value around 5,000 roubles (\$9) — the daily Rossiyskiye Vesti reported. Four or five vouchers will buy a whole night. The vouchers, distributed free to the entire Russian population from last October, are intended for buying shares in privatised state firms. They are also freely tradeable.